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URBAN DISTRICT OF ILKLEY

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# HEALTH REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

# 1955

R. A. W. PROCTER,  
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health

J. H. WILSON  
M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E  
Chief Sanitary Inspector



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### *Medical Officer of Health:*

R. A. W. PROCTER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

### *Chief Sanitary Inspector:*

J. H. WILSON, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E.

### *Additional Sanitary Inspector:*

R. S. DYKES, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

The appointment of Medical Officer of Health is a part-time one.

## ILKLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1955

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my ninth annual report on the health of the Ilkley District.

As it is the last report I shall be privileged to submit, I may perhaps be permitted to look back over the nine years during which I have been Medical Officer of Health. During that period there has been a notable improvement in the general prosperity and standard of living of the people. There has been an outstanding improvement in housing and more money is available in most families for both necessities and luxuries.

Although in our present social set up, mediocrity may be at a premium, a comparison between the state of affairs soon after the war and now shows a great gain in human happiness. For district councillors it must have been a period of some frustration. In spite of hard work and earnest consideration none of the three great problems of the district; e.g. sewerage, water supply and refuse disposal; have been solved. In these days of automation one wonders how much longer we can continue to perpetuate the present methods of refuse collection and disposal and street cleaning. All these procedures are wasteful of labour and cry out for modernisation.

A difficulty which all councils will be facing soon will be a shortage of sanitary inspectors. Recruitment into this profession has been alarmingly low in recent years and this at a time when new and increasing demands are being made on the sanitary inspectorate staff. A change of name, improved status and greater financial inducement will be needed to bring forward the right type of recruit for this important work.

On looking back one wonders whether the work of Health Visiting and child welfare clinics is as necessary as it used to be: yet this is a work of Health Education which is still so badly needed. When one realises that less than 3% of the people using the King's Hall conveniences washed their hands afterwards one sees how necessary is education in elementary cleanliness.

Prevention of mental illhealth must be based on teaching parents how to bring up their children and prevention of the infirmity of old age can only depend on a realization of the importance of a well balanced diet, fresh air and exercise and the maintenance of physical and mental activity.

These thoughts are tempered with regret at giving up an interesting and worth while occupation and with gratitude to all those who have made my period of service with the Ilkley U.D.C. a happy one. To the Clerk and other officers of the Council I tender my acknowledgement for kindly help on many occasions. To Mr. J. H. Wilson, Chief Sanitary Inspector and his staff I am grateful for assistance and cordial co-operation whenever needed. To the Chairman and members of the Health Committee I render my thanks for the kindness and consideration I have always experienced at their hands.

I am, your obedient servant,

R. A. W. PROCTER,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## SECTION I—VITAL STATISTICS

### Births

There were 217 live births (108 males and 109 females) referable to the Ilkley District during the year 1955. This figure is only slightly lower than in the previous year when 220 live births were recorded. But whereas in 1954 illegitimate births numbered 15 (9 male and 6 female), the figure for illegitimate births in 1955 was only 4 males and 4 females. The crude birth rate was 12.6 per 1,000 population. This figure is almost the same as in the previous year and, as is to be expected in a district with a high proportion of old people is lower than the rate for England and Wales and the West Riding administrative County. Adjustment for the age composition of the population gives an adjusted birth rate of 13.5 per 1,000 which approximates more closely to that of the remainder of the Country, but still remains on the low side.

### Deaths

Deaths referable to the Ilkley district during 1955 totalled 247 (116 males and 131 females), compared to 263 in 1954 which was a high figure. The crude death rate for 1955 was 14.4 per 1,000 population and the adjusted rate 10.9; both these figures are lower than those for 1954, 15.3 and 11.4. The crude rate is again higher than in other parts of the Country but the adjusted rate is lower than that for the aggregate of Urban Districts and for the West Riding Administrative County. It is worth mentioning that for the second year running there was no death from infectious disease. Deaths from cancer show a small increase and deaths from heart and circulatory diseases an appreciable fall. The most notable feature of the return of deaths for 1955 was a large increase in deaths from respiratory disease; the figure being more than double that for the previous year. This is entirely accounted for by a high incidence of pneumonia in the first quarter of the year associated with an influenza epidemic. The mortality was almost entirely among the aged. Deaths from accident and suicide were more than usual: motor accidents causing 4 deaths, Home accidents 8 and suicides 4.

### Stillbirths

Stillbirths amounted to 6 during 1955, one male and five females. This is one less than in 1954. One stillbirth occurred at home and the remainder were hospital confinements. Three of these stillbirths were premature. The stillbirth rate was 26.9 per 1,000 live and stillbirths.

This is lower than that of the previous year but still remains above the average for England and Wales although almost the same as that for the Administrative County.

### Infant Mortality

Infant deaths in 1955 numbered only two, both male. One was a baby weighing only 1 lb. 15 ozs. at birth who lived only five hours and died of a congenital defect and prematurity. The other died of congenital heart disease at the age of one month. This figure is by far the lowest of which we have record. It is gratifying that no preventable death among infants occurred in 1955, but it must be acknowledged that the district was fortunate in having so few unavoidable deaths. The Infant Mortality rate was 9.2 per 1,000 live births; a figure which compares very favourably with the rates in the rest of England and Wales.

# ILKLEY, 1955

## SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

### 1. GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in Acres .. .. .	8,610
Registrar General's Estimated Population .. .. .	17,190
Number of inhabited Houses .. .. .	5,764
Rateable Value .. .. .	£159,823
Product of a Penny Rate .. .. .	£625

### II. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate .. .. .	104	105	209
Illegitimate .. .. .	4	4	8
Total .. .. .	108	109	217
Crude rate per 1,000 Estimated Population ..	12.6		
Adjusted rate per 1,000 Estimated Population	13.5		

Stillbirths:	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate .. .. .	1	5	6
Illegitimate .. .. .	—	—	—
Total .. .. .	1	5	6
Rate per 1,000 Live and Stillbirths .. .. .	26.9		

Deaths:	Male	Female	Total
	116	131	247
Crude corrected death rate all causes per 1,000 Estimated Population	14.4		
Adjusted death rate all causes per 1,000 Estimated Population .. .. .	10.9		
Death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis .. .. .	0.23		
Death rate from Tuberculosis all forms .. .. .	0.23		
Death rate from Respiratory Diseases excluding Tuberculosis and including Influenza .. .. .	1.69		
Death rate from Cancer .. .. .	2.21		
Death rate from Heart and Circulatory Diseases .. .. .	5.88		

Infant Mortality:	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate .. .. .	2	—	2
Illegitimate .. .. .	—	—	—
Total .. .. .	2	—	2
Death rate of Infants per 1,000 Live births ..	9.2		



# DEATH STATISTICS

## ILKLEY

### CAUSE OF DEATH

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Respiratory Tuberculosis .. .. .	3	1	4
Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach .. .. .	2	—	2
Malignant Neoplasm Lung, Bronchus .. .. .	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm Breast .. .. .	—	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm Uterus .. .. .	—	5	5
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms .. .. .	13	13	26
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System .. .. .	12	19	31
Coronary Disease—Angina .. .. .	21	14	35
Hypertension with Heart Disease .. .. .	5	6	11
Other Heart Disease .. .. .	19	24	43
Other Circulatory Disease .. .. .	6	6	12
Influenza .. .. .	—	1	1
Pneumonia .. .. .	5	12	17
Bronchitis .. .. .	8	2	10
Other Diseases of Respiratory System .. .. .	1	—	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum .. .. .	4	1	5
Hyperplasia of Prostate .. .. .	2	—	2
Congenital Malformations .. .. .	1	2	3
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases .. .. .	6	11	17
Motor Vehicle Accidents .. .. .	3	1	4
All Other Accidents .. .. .	3	5	8
Suicide .. .. .	1	4	5
All Causes .. .. .	116	131	247

### DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate .. .. .	2	—	2
Illegitimate .. .. .	—	—	—
Total .. .. .	2	—	2

### DEATHS UNDER 4 WEEKS

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate .. .. .	1	—	1
Illegitimate .. .. .	—	—	—
Total .. .. .	1	—	1



## COMPARATIVE STATISTICAL TABLE

	Ilkley Urban District	Aggregate of West Riding Urban Districts	West Riding Administrative County	England and Wales
<b>Birth Rate:</b> (Per 1,000 Estimated Population)				
Crude corrected Rate..	12.6	14.8	15.3	15.0
Adjusted Rate .. ..	13.5	14.9	15.4	15.0
<b>Death Rates:</b> (All per 1,000 Estimated Population)				
All causes Crude Rate	14.4	12.5	11.7	11.7
All causes adjusted rate	10.9	12.7	12.3	11.7
Infective and Parasitic Diseases (excluding T.B. but including Syphilis and other Venereal Diseases)..	Nil	0.06	0.07	†
Tuberculosis of Res- piratory System ..	0.23	0.11	0.11	0.13
Other forms of Tuber- culosis ..	Nil	0.02	0.01	0.02
Respiratory Diseases* (excluding Tuber- culosis of the Res- piratory System) ..	1.69	1.28	1.21	†
Cancer .. ..	2.21	2.03	1.90	2.06
Heart and Circulatory Diseases .. ..	5.88	4.71	4.39	†
Infant Mortality ..	9.2	25.2	26.2	24.9
Maternal Mortality ..	Nil	0.45	0.67	0.64

\* Including Influenza

† Figures not available

## SECTION II

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

#### Staff

During the year the Clerk in charge of the School Health section resigned and her place was filled by promoting the Junior Clerk. A new Junior Clerk was engaged. I should like to take this opportunity of recording my indebtedness to the Chief Clerk and other members of the staff of the Divisional Health Office for their help during my period of service as Divisional Medical Officer.

#### Ambulance and Laboratory Services

Arrangements have continued as in previous years and have worked very smoothly.

#### Hospitals and Maternity Homes

There are no alterations in hospital arrangements to record.

## Midwifery

The number of home confinements which took place within the Ilkley District shows a gratifying rise from the low figure of 30 for 1954 to 53 in 1955. Home confinements in Ilkley and Ben Rhydding rose from only 9 to 22 and for Burley and Menston from 21 to 31 including twin births. As nearly all the doctors in the district advise their patients to go to hospital for their confinements, it speaks well for the personalities and professional skill of the midwives in the district that so many mothers wished for and insisted on having home confinements.

	1955	1954	1953
Cases delivered .. ..	53	30	44
Post-natal visits .. ..	1063	588	879

Thirty-three of these mothers had gas and air analgesia and in 14 cases medical aid was required at some stage of pregnancy, labour or puerperium.

## Home Nursing

The Home Nurses have had a busy year especially in Ilkley and Burley. In Ilkley the number of visits paid is substantially higher than 1954 and is almost double that of 1953. In Burley also the total visits is double the figure for 1953. In Menston a further small decline in the work is recorded. This may be partly due to changes of staff at Otley and the necessity to make improvised arrangements from time to time to cover the work in the Menston area.

<i>Home Nursing visits paid:</i>	1955	1954	1953
Ilkley .. .. .	5377	4982	2701
Burley .. .. .	3533	3446	1683
Menston .. .. .	1390	1531	1921

## Home Helps

The work of providing domestic help in the home has continued on similar lines to previous years. There has, however, during the past year been an increasing difficulty in finding suitable women for the work. Ilkley and Ben Rhydding present special problems owing to the scarcity of local Home Helps and the frequent necessity of bringing women from Burley and even further afield to provide Home Helps for Ilkley cases. A further difficulty has been the necessity of paying Home Helps double pay, plus equivalent time off for Bank Holidays; thus making Bank holiday help extremely expensive. The provision of Home help to the chronic sick and aged shows a further increase and the demand has nearly doubled in the last four years. In fact, the care of the chronic sick and aged is the main preoccupation of both the Home Help and Home nursing services.

Miss H. A. S. Johnstone, Health Visitor, who had acted as Home Help Organiser in the Division for the previous 6½ years, retired at the end of 1955. Her energy and enthusiasm contributed greatly to putting the Home Help service in the area on a sound footing, and to the smooth working of the service.

Number of cases provided with Home Help during the year:—

	1955	1954	1953
Ill .. .. .	8	13	15
Maternity .. .. .	10	7	8
Chronic Sick & Aged ..	68	59	45
Children .. .. .	—	—	—
	<hr/> 86 <hr/>	<hr/> 79 <hr/>	<hr/> 68 <hr/>

## Care of the Old and Infirm

As indicated in my report for 1954, a part time Health Visitor, Mrs. M. Tilley, devoted such time as she can spare from School Health duties, to the visiting and ascertainment of aged persons. With the limited time she can devote to the work, it is impossible for her to undertake routine visiting of the aged, and there is a need for a properly organised visiting Sub-Committee such as is maintained by the Otley Old People's Welfare Committee. Mrs. Tilley's report of her activities during 1955 reveal several points of interest and I quote it in full:—

“During 1955 I have continued to visit the elderly people of Ilkley, mainly the over “seventies”. I find the 60—70 year olds don't think of themselves as old. When I visit 60—70 year olds in my “street by street” visiting, I add them to my list for future reference, as it is at this age that decisions concerning the future should be made; e.g. to give up a large house for a smaller one—to take a lighter job—decide if they would like to live a communal life in a home etc. Once over 70 years old it is difficult to make these changes.

## Housing

The problem of too many large houses occupied by single persons still remains, most occupants are over 70 years old. Out of 39 over 80 year olds—20 are living alone in large houses, only 3 are housed in O.P.D. A typical case is that of an old lady, aged 82 years, who was left a large terrace house, she has only £2 pension to live on and her health is failing, so now she occupies one room, has a home help to clean and National Assistance to pay her rates.

Of 72 people over 70 years old more than half live alone in large houses. The need is for smaller houses, O.P. Flats or large houses converted into bedsitters with a Caretaker to call on in case of need.

## Financial

High rent assessments and rates mean less to spend on food—one lady has a 4 bed-roomed house which she rents (rent and rates are 32/11d. per week) her pension is £2 so you can understand when she says “6 loaves and 2 oxo's are her weekly diet”—now she is having National Assistance and is waiting for an O.P.D.

Most private incomes and pensions remain stationary. In a few cases the “under seventies” supplement their pensions by part-time work, a few are helped by their families. The number drawing National Assistance continues to rise as the cost of living rises. This increase in the number of National Assistance allowances serves to emphasise the present inadequacy of the pension. I believe an increase in pension is imminent.

## Health

During the last year I have visited well over 200 old people, mostly over 70 years old. Many suffer from illnesses of a chronic nature. They are visited monthly by the doctors. There is a shortage of beds for chronic cases.

Once again the week holiday at Hornsea was enjoyed by many, also summer outings and Christmas parties. Many organisations gave Christmas parcels.

There was also an extra coal allowance where necessary—the expense prevented some from taking advantage of this privilege.

There is to be club for Old People—fortnightly in the Ambulance Hut. The “Round Table” have come forward generously and offered their help and to finance it for the first year. It is to be hoped that from this club the Old People will form an active community.

## AGED PERSONS STATISTICS 1955

	80yrs. and over	70-80 yrs.	60-70yrs.
<b>Total No. visited:</b>	39	116	41
No. living alone in Houses .. ..	21	35	15
No. living alone in Flats and O.P.D. ..	5	5	1
No. living alone in Lodgings .. ..	2	6	2
No. living with relatives .. ..	9	24	1
Married couples .. ..	1	23	11
<b>Financial:</b>			
Retirement or O.A.P. and Nat. Ass. ..	18	35	8
R.P. or O.A.P. and savings .. ..	11	24	11
R.P., O.A.P. super, private pension ..	4	39	15
Independent means .. ..	6	3	—
<b>Health</b>			
Some disability or chronic illness ..	22	67	15
Bedridden .. ..	3	9	—
Good Health .. ..	14	48	26

### Child Welfare Centres

With the closing of the Burley Day Nursery at the end of 1954, the nursery building on which a large sum of money had been recently spent became available for use as a Child Welfare Clinic and has proved very suitable for the purpose. The work of the clinics in the district has continued much as before with only minor fluctuations in numbers compared with previous years.

#### *Attendances at Child Welfare Clinics:*

<i>No. of Children attending</i>					1955	1954	1953
Ilkley	..	..	..	..	253	229	265
Burley	..	..	..	..	155	152	139
Menston	..	..	..	..	69	67	60
<i>Total Attendances</i>		<i>Under 1 year</i>			<i>Over 1 year</i>		
		1955	1954	1953	1955	1954	1953
Ilkley	..	1,030	1,135	1,127	862	900	954
Burley	..	995	1,022	852	930	620	540
Menston	..	407	316	317	288	320	229

### Ante-Natal Care

The policy of discontinuing clinical supervision by a doctor at Ante-Natal Clinics and concentration on instruction and relaxation exercises was continued. During the year 1955, one woman who lived in a rather remote area, finding an afternoon visit more convenient than an evening visit to her own doctor, expressed a wish to be supervised at the clinic. There were also a few attendances for blood tests in the early part of the year. Attendances at the relaxation exercise and instruction classes at Ilkley show an improvement; 66 women having made 574 attendances in 1955 compared to 47 and 483 in 1954. In Burley classes were started during the year. The District Nurse attended a course of instruction in Ante-Natal exercises and now undertakes the relaxation exercise classes while education in Ante-Natal care is given by the Health Visitor. This was an innovation in Burley and time will be needed for both doctors and expectant mothers to get used to the idea. During the period since the commencement of the classes to the end of the year, 19 women made 81 attendances.



## Health Visiting

Health visiting arrangements in the district have remained unchanged during 1955. Ante-natal visiting has increased in an encouraging manner. This has been greatly facilitated by the arrangement made with the Hospital authorities whereby expectant mothers are able to express a wish for a visit by a health visitor when an application for a bed is submitted.

As there is close co-operation between Health visitors and district nurses, women having home confinements are known to the Health Visitors. The figure for "Other Visits" shows a substantial increase as do tuberculosis visits. This represents a part of the activities of the part time Health Visitor. Her work among old people has already been recorded. Her other activities are Tuberculosis visiting and School Health Work.

### *Visits paid by Health Visitors in 1955—*

	<i>Expectant Mothers</i>	<i>Children under 1 yr.</i>	<i>Children 1-2 yrs.</i>	<i>Children 2-5 yr.</i>	<i>T.B. Visits</i>	<i>Other Visits</i>
Ilkley and						
Ben Rhidding	111	984	422	768	131	451
Burley and Menston	135	895	550	940	82	176

These figures do not include visits paid by the Home Help Organiser.

## Day Nurseries

As recorded in my last report the Day Nursery at Burley was closed at the end of 1954 and the number of children in the Ilkley Day Nursery was severely restricted. This naturally increased the per capita daily cost of keeping a child in the Nursery and contrary to my advice, the Ilkley Health Committee recommended to the County Council the closing of the Ilkley Day Nursery. This recommendation was gladly accepted by the County Council and as a consequence the Ilkley Day Nursery was closed at the end of June 1955. The closing of day nurseries which has been the policy throughout the West Riding has robbed Medical Officers of a useful weapon in the battle against physical and mental disease. The seed of many physical and mental illnesses are sown in the early years of life owing to ignorance and incompetence in the home. A period of care at a Day Nursery can often counteract the detrimental effects of a bad home upbringing. It therefore seems to me a retrograde step that in many areas now no day nursery accommodation is available.

## Immunisation and Vaccination

### *Numbers vaccinated and immunised in the Ilkley District during 1955:—*

Number of Primary immunisations against Diphtheria ..	187
Number of Refresher Doses .. .. .	62
Number of Primary vaccinations against Smallpox ..	183
Number of re-vaccinations .. .. .	52
Number of Primary inoculations against Whooping Cough	123

Primary immunisations against diphtheria show little change from last year. An analysis of figures for the past 5 years shows that during that period there were 1,085 live births and 887 primary immunisations against diphtheria. This provides strong evidence that the percentage of protected children is in the neighbourhood of 80%. The primary immunisation confers immunity for some 5 years and it is important that a refresher dose should be given on going to school. During the 5 year period 663 refresher doses were given.

It is difficult to get a clear idea about the degree of protection of the population against smallpox because some of the primary vaccinations are in respect to adults going abroad. However if we omit the large number of primary vaccinations of adults and children over 5 years, which were done at the time of the last smallpox scare in 1953 a total of 1,030 primary vaccinations were recorded in the 5 year period. This at least suggests that a high proportion of young babies are protected by vaccination. Whooping Cough inoculations have been well maintained and it is probable that about 40% to 50% of children under 3 years have been inoculated. Towards the end of the year steps were taken for the introduction of vaccination against Poliomyelitis. It is probable that in 1957 this protective measure will be established as a routine procedure. This emphasizes the importance of introducing a combined vaccine for immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough. Such a vaccine exists and is used by many general practitioners but it has not yet been approved by the Ministry of Health and therefore cannot be used at Local Health authority clinics. So in future a parent who wishes a baby to be fully protected must submit the unfortunate child to vaccination against smallpox, 3 injections against whooping cough, 2 against diphtheria and 2 against poliomyelitis, a total of 8 protective procedures in the first 18 months of life.

### School Health Services

During 1955 in spite of frequent interruptions due to holidays and inadequate accommodation at schools, medical inspection of school children increased. A total of 1,116 children were examined at schools in the Ilkley district. This exceeds the high figure for 1954. The nutrition of the children was even better than in the previous year with a higher proportion recorded as in a good nutritional state and only one as unsatisfactory. The poor posture of many children was again noticeable and it is unfortunate that the physical exercises at school are not better designed to secure a good chest development and a well balanced carriage and posture. During the year the premises at the Ilkley clinic previously occupied by the Chief Sanitary Inspector were converted and equipped as a school dental clinic. The school dentist now has excellent and up to date facilities. But of 275 parents whose children required and were offered dental treatment it is disappointing to record that only 117 or 42% accepted.

	En- trants	2nd Age Group	3rd Age Group	School Leavers	Special Exams.	Re- Exams.
Total number inspected ..	263	395	192	127	25	34
Defects found:						
(a) requiring treatment ..	74	92	33	18	18	-
(b) to be kept under observation ..	38	56	13	4	2	-
Nutritional State:						
A. Good .. ..	240	358	153	103	-	-
B. Fair .. ..	23	36	39	24	-	-
C. Poor .. ..	-	1	-	-	-	-

### SECTION III

#### HEALTH AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

As is usual in the Ilkley district which is a favourite one for retirement and where the proportion of elderly people is higher than in most parts of the country, the deaths in 1955 exceeded the births but not by so high a margin as in the previous year. Apart from a widespread epidemic of measles among children and an epidemic of influenza which caused some mortality among elderly people, the district has enjoyed a year of good health. The extraordinarily fine dry summer undoubtedly contributed to improve the standard of positive good health. This was particularly noticeable among the children who were out of doors much more than usual and up to the end of the year white pasty faces were few. The fact that another year has gone by without an outbreak of food poisoning is a matter for satisfaction and for congratulation to the caterers and food handlers in the district. There is however still much room for improvement in the manner in which food is exposed for sale and in the methods of handling it. New legislation which will take effect in 1956 gives increased powers to local authorities but the solution lies in the hands of the public who have it in their power to insist on higher standards by withholding their custom from any establishment where a high standard of food hygiene is lacking. However a population which will tolerate the littering of our towns and countryside with paper, orange peel and empty bottles is not likely to object very strongly to dirty methods and carelessness in the handling of its food. A great deal of health education is needed to bring home to the public the importance of good food hygiene.

A consequence of the hot dry summer was an alarming shortage of water in the Ilkley District and severe restrictions in supply were imposed. Fortunately householders responded very well to the Council's plea for economy and it was not necessary to resort to stand pipes and rationing. To meet the situation and as a temporary expedient arrangements were made to pump water from the River Wharfe, too use the swimming bath for sedimentation, storage and chlorination and from there to pump it into the Town water system. In some ways it is a pity that this emergency scheme did not have to be put into use as useful information would have been obtained especially as to the degree of chlorination required and as to the purity of the water after treatment.

It is unfortunately necessary to report again that Burley Woodhead and Viewlands Menston remain in an insanitary condition owing to lack of sewerage facilities. This is not for want of trying on the part of the Council. The danger to public health has been stressed in no uncertain terms by the Health officers of the Council and proposals were put forward by the Council and were the subject of an enquiry by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government whose eventual conclusion was that pollution of water supplies and consequent danger to public health were matters of minor consequence in view of the economic situation. This view has for the time prevailed and insanitary conditions must be tolerated for a further indefinite period.

The problem of providing for the present and future needs for the sewerage of the district made little progress during the year and it would be optimistic to hope that an early solution is likely. In the same way the refuse disposal problem remains unsolved although a number of suggestions have received careful consideration. The building of new houses has continued steadily throughout 1955. The Council provided 76 new housing units consisting of 36 houses and 40 flats while 64 houses and 20 flats were provided by private enterprise. The urgent housing needs of the district have now been filled but further building will be required for rehousing tenants of property due to be demolished under the Slum Clearance Scheme. The slum problem in the district is not a large one and if steady progress can be maintained for some 10 years there should be very little substandard property left in the district.



## SECTION IV

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Cases of infectious diseases notified during the year 1955 reached the grand total of 332 compared to the low total of 68 for the year 1954. This is a high figure although considerably lower than the total for the year 1951 when no less than 592 notifications were received. These fluctuations are almost entirely accounted for by the epidemics of measles among young children which have appeared regularly every other year. In fact if measles cases are omitted the remaining notifications for 1955 are 72 or only slightly above the figure of 65 for the previous year.

#### **Measles**

As forecast in the annual report for 1954, the year 1955 produced its expected measles epidemic. The total was 259 cases compared to only 13 in 1954. The disease affected all parts of the district, but Menston was particularly hard hit probably because it had escaped lightly in the previous epidemic in 1953. The disease was on the whole not severe and no deaths associated with it were reported. The age group mainly picked out was 3 to 7 years.

#### **Whooping Cough**

The year started with a report of two cases in one family. One case was reported in July and one in August. All the patients were young children and none had been protected by inoculation. There can now be little doubt that if mothers will only get their babies inoculated against whooping cough this disease will become as rare as Diphtheria.

#### **Diphtheria**

It is possible again to report that no case of diphtheria occurred within the Ilkley district during the year 1955. In fact for the past 10 years no case of the disease has been reported. It might therefore be justifiable to omit the disease from my comments on Infectious Diseases, if it were not for the desirability of continually reminding the public of the importance of protecting their children by immunisation. It is difficult for the present generation to realise that less than 100 years ago the death rate from diphtheria exceeded 500 per million population and that as recently as 1934 deaths in Seacroft Hospital, Leeds numbered 154—whereas only twenty years later it was possible for the Consultant Physician in charge to report that there had been no admission for diphtheria in 1954 and no death in the hospital from the disease for six years.

#### **Scarlet Fever**

After the first eight months of the year when only 3 cases of scarlet fever were reported the incidence of the disease increased in the last four months when 28 cases were reported. The total was almost the same as in the previous year. Patients were all school children from 5 to 7 years of age and the majority of the cases were pupils at the New Infants school. The disease followed the usual mild type. It is difficult nowadays to realise that this comparatively trivial disease was once so virulent that some eighty years ago it caused 1,500 deaths per million population and it was the most killing infectious disease of children.

#### **Acute Poliomyelitis**

During a year when the incidence of poliomyelitis throughout the country was higher than in the previous year there were 6 notifications of cases of the disease within the district. Four were adults and two children. The children were mildly affected and made good recoveries. One of the adults proved to be a severe case of infective jaundice and not poliomyelitis and of the three remaining adult cases only one was seriously affected and likely to have any permanent incapacity as a result of this disease.

### **Sonne Dysentery**

This highly infectious condition first appeared in Ilkley as the result of a visiting child suffering from the disease. As a result six other children in the house and a neighbouring house were infected. Two of these were reported and recorded as food poisoning. This small nidus of infection was limited by keeping the patients from contact with other children and the disease did not spread. In the latter part of November an outbreak occurred in the Wharfedale Children's Hospital and 18 children in one ward were victims of the disease. By the end of the year this outbreak appeared to be at an end.

### **Food Poisoning**

Four notifications of this condition were made during the year. One adult, resident of Menston had been infected with *Salmonella Typhimurium* and was discovered in connection with a food poisoning outbreak in Otley. The other three cases were children and two were certainly and the other probably, cases of Sonne Dysentery. There was nothing in the nature of a food poisoning outbreak in the Ilkley District during 1955 and, as far as can be ascertained, no one suffered any detrimental effects from any food purchased or consumed in the district.

MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING THE YEAR

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Measles .. ..	3	45	103	37	9	16	32	14	-	-	-	-	259
Whooping Cough .. ..	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	4
Scarlet Fever .. ..	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	5	2	12	9	31
Pneumonia .. ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia .. ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2
Food Poisoning .. ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	4
Sonne Dysentery .. ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	7	11	23
Acute Poliomyelitis .. ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	1	-	6
Encephalitis .. ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Erysipelas .. ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
TOTALS .. ..	7	46	103	38	9	17	32	17	17	3	20	23	332

TABLE SHOWING CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR

	Measles		Whooping Cough		Scarlet Fever		Pneumonia		Puerperal Pyrexia		Food Poisoning		Dysentery		Polio-Myelitis		Encephalitis		Erysipelas	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Numbers originally Notified—	124	135	2	2	21	10	—	1	—	2	1	3	19	4	2	4	1	—	—	1
Final Nos. after correction—																				
0—1	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—2	6	5	1.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2—3	16	19	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3—4	20	20	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4—5	18	15	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	59	69	—	—	15	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	3	13	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	2.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65+	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	124	135	2	2	21	10	—	1	—	2	1	3	19	4	2	3	—	—	—	1

## SECTION V

### TUBERCULOSIS

During the year 1955 five males and three females were reported for the first time as suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. Only one new case of non pulmonary tuberculosis was included in the register. This was an Italian girl who joined the staff at the Middleton Hospital, who was found to have tubercular peritonitis and who returned to Italy after a short stay in hospital. Her name was entered in the Ilkley register in error and as she has left the country and her name has been removed from the register, the error has been allowed to stand.

The notifications during 1955 are the lowest on record and it is interesting to compare past figures. In the triennial period 1948 to 1950 inclusive, yearly notifications averaged 15 pulmonary and 6 non pulmonary. In the four year period 1951 to 1954 inclusive, the average was just under 11 pulmonary and a little under 2 nonpulmonary. In 1955 only 8 pulmonary and (excluding the Italian girl) no non-pulmonary cases were reported. Removals from the register were 11 male and 9 female pulmonary patients and 2 female non-pulmonary patients. Ten of these have left the district; eight have recovered and two have died. At the end of the year there were 78 pulmonary cases and 13 non-pulmonary cases remaining on the register.

### TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
(a) Number of cases on register at 1/1/55 .. .. .	51	34	8	6
(b) Number of cases notified for first time in 1955 .. .. .	5	3	—	1
(c) Number of cases restored to register .. .. .	—	—	—	—
(d) Number of cases added to register other than by notification .. .. .	1	4	—	—
(e) Number of cases removed from register .. .. .	11	9	—	2
(f) Number of cases remaining on register at end of 1955 ..	46	32	8	5

### NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFIED DURING 1955

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—5 .. .. .	—	1	—	—
6—10 .. .. .	—	—	—	—
11—20 .. .. .	—	2	—	—
21—40 .. .. .	2	—	—	1
41—60 .. .. .	3	—	—	—
Over 60 .. .. .	—	—	—	—
TOTALS .. .. .	5	3	—	1



# ILKLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1955

SANITARY DEPARTMENT,  
LITTLE LANE,  
ILKLEY.  
May, 1956.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF  
ILKLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting for your information and consideration a brief review of the Sanitary Administration and the Environmental Health Services of the Urban District for 1955.

The "hardy annual" of inadequacy of refuse disposal facilities, after further consideration by the Health Committee, is at last showing signs of a successful solution. The acquisition of two small sites, and the probability of the extension of an existing site should provide disposal facilities for refuse for the next 25 years. It is disappointing that no further progress has yet been made in the sewerage of the Woodhead and Chevin End areas, for restriction upon capital expenditure will apparently have the effect of postponing indefinitely the provision of sewers to these areas. Lack of labour on street cleansing duties, particularly during the "Weeding" period, was a matter of some concern during the year, but resort to the employment of volunteers from the staff of the Department during the summer evenings however, again proved an effective method of overcoming the labour shortage for "weeding" duties.

In connection with the safety of food supplies, every endeavour has been made to continue the regular supervision of food premises. Inspection of food animals slaughtered in the Urban District has been continued throughout the year and it is emphasised that post-mortem inspection of all animals has been insisted upon at the Public Abattoir and at the two private slaughterhouses. Closure of one of these private slaughterhouses was secured during the year and there is some indication that the remaining premises will be in use only for a further short period of time. A significant feature in the statistics in the section dealing with meat inspection is the considerable decrease in the quantity of meat and offals condemned—an indication of the high quality of the animals slaughtered at the Abattoir.

Throughout the year the hygienic and food value standards of milk and ice-cream sold in the area have been maintained at a satisfactory level; the incidence of infestation by insect pests has remained at a remarkably low level, and the salvage collection and disposal work of the Department has been particularly successful, especially in the recovery of waste paper, the sale of which realised an income of £2,326, whilst the total income from all recoveries by the end of the year was £2,558.

Statistics etc. in connection with food premises and shops have again been included and it is hoped that the information will be of interest to the Council and also to local organisations.

The supervision of drainage and allied sanitary work has long been associated with the office of "Sanitary Inspector", indeed, by many it is still assumed to be almost the sole occupation of this Officer. Perusal of this report, however, will no doubt belie this conception, for whilst drainage work is undoubtedly

an important function, it is only one item amongst the many diverse and essential duties carried out by the Sanitary Officer of to-day. The title "Sanitary Inspector" is very much a misnomer, as the Health Officer of to-day is more of an advisor than an inspector and the scope of his duties goes far beyond "Sanitation" and "Inspection".

I wish to record my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration which has been accorded to me by the Chairman and Members of the Council, and in particular by the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, whose progressive attitude and enthusiasm towards the work of the Department have encouraged my efforts.

The presentation of this report gives me the opportunity to commend to your notice the work of my deputy, Mr. R. S. Dykes, who carries out his duties in a quiet, tactful and unassuming manner. The conscientious efforts of Mr. Dykes are reflected in the high standard of environmental hygiene enjoyed by this District.

I am grateful for the assistance of Mr. R. A. Lister, your Sanitary Foreman, and for his efforts in the control of the workmen of the Department, especially for his supervision of workmen on overtime weeding duties during the summer evenings.

I am indebted to the Medical Officer of Health for the excellent spirit of mutual assistance and co-operation which exists, and to other fellow chief officers for their support.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

J. H. WILSON,

*Chief Sanitary Inspector.*



## SECTION I—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

### (1) MILK

So far as practicable within the limits of existing legislative control, the Department has sought by sampling and supervision of premises, etc., to ensure a clean, safe and unadulterated supply of milk. 82 samples were taken as a check upon cleanliness in production and distribution, efficiency of processing, for evidence of adulteration and for the presence of pathogenic organisms.

The number of complaints as to the quality of the milk supply of the area has been negligible and the increasing production and sale of designated milks has undoubtedly contributed to this improvement.

#### (a) Bacteriological Examination.

34 samples were taken and submitted to the Methylene Blue Test, a test which indicates the probable keeping quality of the milk. 4 (or 11.8%) were unsatisfactory, of which one was produced on a farm within the Urban area. Investigation at producer's premises following unsatisfactory samples, formerly the work of the local Sanitary Authority, is now carried out by Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, who took over powers of supervision of milk production at dairy farms in 1949.

#### (b) Biological Tests.

12 samples of milk were taken for the purpose of examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli and all proved negative to the tests.

#### (c) Heat Treatment

During 1955 there were two dairy premises in the Urban District properly equipped and licensed for the heat treatment of milk. At the Ilkley dairy the milk is heat treated by the High-Temperature Short-Time method (H.T.S.T.), and the plant is capable of dealing with 600 gallons per hour. In addition to modern mechanical equipment for bottle washing and filling, etc., this dairy possesses an up-to-date laboratory in which daily samples of milk supplies to the dairy are tested for quality and keeping properties. At the Burley dairy the Holder process of pasteurisation is operated.

In addition to heat treatment at local dairies, a quantity of pasteurised and sterilised milk is retailed in the district by distributors whose registered premises are situated in neighbouring urban and rural areas.

During the course of the year 15 samples were submitted for examination and all were found to satisfy the prescribed tests as to keeping quality and adequacy of heat treatment.

#### (d) Adulteration

21 samples of milk were taken in course of delivery from producers and vendors for detection of adulteration. The Analyst reported that in all instances the milk was of the nature, substance and quality demanded by the purchaser.

The average fat content of the 21 samples is 3.6% with solids-not-fat 8.8%. (1954—fat 3.53% and solids-not-fat 8.8%).

#### (e) Designated Milk.

During recent years the production and sale of designated milk has greatly increased in the area and it is gratifying to report that of the 32 milk producing farms in the Urban District, 19 (or 60%) are licensed for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk.

During the year further steps were taken by the Ministry of Food towards the specification of twelve more areas in which all milk sold by retail must be "Specially Designated", that is, pasteurised, sterilised or tuberculin tested, and an Order came into force in this area in March, 1955. This Urban District is included in the Leeds and District area which comprises the City of Leeds, the Urban Districts of Aireborough, Horsforth, Ilkley and Otley and the Rural District of Wharfedale. By the specification of these further areas, 68% of the population of England and Wales will be living in areas where only "Specially Designated" milk may be retailed. The only raw or untreated milk to be sold will be tuberculin tested, the remainder being heat treated, that is, pasteurised or sterilised milk.

The licensing of local milk distributors for the retail sale of designated milk is a duty of this local authority and the number of licences issued by the Council during the year is as follows:—

Dealer's licences to retail "Tuberculin Tested" milk..	..	20
Dealer's licences to retail "Pasteurised" milk	..	5
Supplementary licences to retail "Pasteurised" milk	..	4
Supplementary licences to retail "Sterilised" milk	..	4
Supplementary licences to retail "Tuberculin Tested" milk		3

#### (f) Dairies and Milkshops

Regular inspection of these premises has been maintained and throughout the year the standard of cleanliness in local dairies has been consistently satisfactory.

At the end of the year there were 5 premises registered as dairies and 15 milk retailers registered as distributors. In six cases distributors use the registered premises of other producers or retailers for the cleansing and storage of cans, bottles and other utensils, and for the storage of milk. Three distributors registered use dairies outside the Urban District.

## (2) MEAT

### (a) Meat Inspection

The post-mortem inspection of the carcasses, organs and offals of all food animals brought for slaughter to the Public Abattoir is carried out by your Sanitary Officers.

In June, 1954, the Livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering) Order which had been in force since 1940 was rescinded, and meat released from rationing. To the close of 1955, 18 months of "Free" trade has been enjoyed by the local butchers, and it is apparent from the greatly reduced quantity of meat and offals condemned that a very high class of animal and grade of meat is being obtained by those butchers who use the facilities at the Abattoir.

During control by the Ministry of Food, the meat for 27 shops (24 butchers) was allocated by the Ministry from the Public Abattoir. These included 15 butchers' shops in Ilkley, 6 in Burley, 3 in Menston and 3 in Addingham (in the Skipton Rural area). During 1955, however, only 15 of the 24 butchers continued to use the Public Abattoir for the slaughter of food animals. Of the remainder, 5 of the Multiple shops obtained their meat in the wholesale market and 4 used slaughterhouses in adjoining districts. The number of animals dealt with was consequently less than during control and during certain periods in 1955 the number slaughtered dwindled considerably. The reduction was such that the Council were forced to reconsider the scale of slaughtering charges fixed during 1954. The possibility of further increases was however deferred until consideration of the Annual Estimates early in 1956.

The following figures indicate, month by month, the number and type of animals slaughtered and inspected at the Public Abattoir.

			<i>Bovines</i>		<i>Calves</i>		<i>Sheep</i>		<i>Pigs</i>
January ..	..	..	66	..	28	..	221	..	166
February..	..	..	60	..	17	..	144	..	154
March ..	..	..	81	..	20	..	223	..	210
April ..	..	..	50	..	18	..	133	..	147
May ..	..	..	42	..	10	..	117	..	133
June ..	..	..	51	..	8	..	208	..	121
July ..	..	..	41	..	8	..	198	..	63
August ..	..	..	43	..	21	..	253	..	69
September ..	..	..	72	..	33	..	480	..	116
October ..	..	..	68	..	37	..	436	..	95
November ..	..	..	93	..	29	..	520	..	133
December ..	..	..	49	..	14	..	289	..	219
			<u>716</u>	..	<u>243</u>	..	<u>3,222</u>	..	<u>1,626</u>
			(892)	..	(296)	..	(4,020)	..	(1,648)

Comparative details for 1954 are given in brackets beneath each class of animal, and it will be noted that the total this year is 1049 or 15.3% less than 1954. The reductions in the form of percentages are as follows:—

Bovines	8.7%
Calves	17.9%
Sheep	19.9%
Pigs	1.3%

The following table, given in the form requested by the Ministry of Health, shows the number of cases in which diseased and unsound conditions were found in food animals at the Abattoir.

	Cattle Exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ..	639	77	243	3,222	1,626	Nil
Number inspected ..	639	77	243	3,222	1,626	Nil
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI Whole carcasses con- demned .. ..	—	1	4	3	2	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	264	24	—	153	114	—
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci.	4.13%	32.4%	1.6%	4.7%	7.1%	—
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY: Whole carcasses con- demned .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	55	16	—	—	42	—
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affec- ted with tuberculosis	8.6%	20.8%	—	—	2.6%	—
CYSTICERCOSIS Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refri- geration .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—

The following table shows the quantities of unsound meat and offals rejected during routine inspections, with the principle causes of condemnation and weight in pounds.

	Bovines		Sheep		Calves		Pigs	
	Meat	Offals	Meat	Offals	Meat	Offals	Meat	Offals
Tuberculosis.. ..	848	1,135	—	—	—	—	549	118
Bone taint .. ..	452	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Actinomycosis & Bacillosis .. ..	60	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dropsy and/or Emaciation .. ..	340	52	76	23	—	—	—	—
Extensive bruising ..	86	—	38	10	—	—	—	—
Distomatosis and/or Cirrhosis .. ..	—	1,784	—	93	—	—	—	40
Johne's Disease .. ..	—	240	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mammitis .. ..	—	51	—	—	—	—	—	—
Local Suppuration ..	—	315	—	7	—	—	—	—
Angiomatosis .. ..	—	47	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteritis .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	62
Immaturity .. ..	—	—	—	—	56	16	—	—
Jaundice .. ..	—	—	—	—	37	7	—	—
Pyæmia .. ..	—	—	—	—	35	8	—	—
Pleurisy .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17
Pneumonia .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	98
Pyrexia .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	35	10
Swine Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	90	11
Total in lbs. ..	1,786	3,624	114	133	128	31	674	356

A total of just over 3 tons (6,846 lbs.) (1954—6½ tons) of meat was condemned for various diseased and unsound conditions and, as in previous years, one of the greatest causes of loss in butcher's meat, particularly in bovines, is due to Tuberculosis; the weight of meat and offals affected with this disease represents 36.6% (1954—60.4%; 1953—36.7%) of the total quantity condemned for all causes.

Localised Tuberculosis, involving the condemnation of certain individual organs, offals or parts of carcasses, was found in 71 beasts, representing an incidence of Tuberculosis of 9.9% (1954—13%; 1953—15.8%) in the total slaughtered. In no case did inspection show that the disease had reached an advanced stage or had become generalised throughout the lymphatic system of blood stream, and no instances of condemnation of an entire carcase and offals was necessary.

The most prevalent disease in pigs is Penumonia, though it is unusual to find an animal greatly distressed by the condition, and whilst post-mortem examination has shown that a very high percentage of the lungs of pigs are affected by patches of Lobar Pneumonia, it appears that the disease does not seriously affect the well-being of the animals. Where the inflammation of the lungs is non-septic, there is little or no detrimental effect upon the flesh of the animal and it is only necessary to reject the affected lung tissue.



As in bovines, Tuberculosis is the cause of the greatest wastage of pork at the Abattoir, though in this area at least the incidence of the disease has greatly decreased during the last decade. In the past lesions of Tuberculosis in pigs were commonplace and the incidence of infection was in the region of 50% or more according to the district in which the animals were reared. Of the 1,626 pigs slaughtered and inspected at the Abattoir, only 42 or 2.6% were affected. The disease, though not now common, is still the greatest factor in the loss of pork and offals, the weight of meat and offals affected representing 64.7% (1954—66.6%; 1953—61.7%) of the total quantity condemned for all causes. In all cases the disease was localised and in an early stage and usually confined to the head and/or intestinal tract, and in no instance was the disease in such an advanced stage of development as to render a carcase and offals totally unfit for human consumption.

Examination of the following records of Tuberculosis found in animals slaughtered at the Abattoir shows that the incidence in pigs has remained at a very low level during recent years, and that the incidence in beasts is gradually diminishing.

#### Incidence of Tuberculosis in Food Animals

				<i>Bovines</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
1946	..	..	..	23.7	..	—	18.1
1947	..	..	..	26.3	..	—	3.6
1948	..	..	..	19.9	..	1.4	1.5
1949	..	..	..	10.96	..	1.45	6.3
1950	..	..	..	20.04	..	0.56	7.8
1951	..	..	..	17.2	..	0.5	5.3
1952	..	..	..	16.4	..	—	2.3
1953	..	..	..	15.8	..	0.7	3.8
1954	..	..	..	13.0	..	1.4	3.6
1955	..	..	..	9.9	—	—	2.6

Whilst Tuberculosis causes the greatest loss of meat, the most common cause of condemnation of offals in beasts and sheep is Distomatosis. This disease, a localised condition found in the liver, is due to an infestation of the bile ducts by parasites. These "Flukes" cause thickening of the bile ducts and hardening of the liver tissue. The incidence of the disease varies considerably with the district in which the animals have been bred and the incidence of the disease in bovines has shown little tendency to decrease. It accounted for 49.2% of the total quantity of beast offal rejected (1954—37.8%; 1953—44.4%). In beasts, fortunately, the disease has little effect upon the condition of the animal, but in sheep is often the cause of serious loss, Dropsy and Emaciation often following heavy infestation of the liver. The carcases and offals of 3 sheep were so affected and were condemned.

34.6% of all beasts and 3.8% of all sheep inspected were found to be affected in varying degrees, and this parasitic infestation, though fortunately not communicable to man, often renders the liver totally unfit for human consumption.

The following are particulars of the diseases or conditions which involved the condemnation of entire carcases and offals:—

1 cow	Emaciation following chronic Johne's Disease.
3 sheep	Dropsy and Emaciation due to chronic Distomatosis of the Liver.
1 sheep	Extensive bruising and lacerations following an accident.
2 calves	Immaturity
1 calf	Pyaemia.
1 calf	Jaundice
1 pig	Pyrexia
1 pig	Swine Erysipelas.

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11 (As compared with 40 in 1954)

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## PUBLIC ABATTOIR



PART OF A COOLING ROOM



PART OF MAIN SLAUGHTERING HALL





### (b) Private Slaughterhouses

Prior to the operation of the Livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering) Order, 1940, there were four private slaughterhouses and one Public Abattoir in use in the Urban District. Upon the operation of this Order, however, three of the private slaughterhouses were closed and slaughtering of food animals was concentrated at the Council's Public Abattoir, all butcher's meat sold in Ilkley, Burley, Menston and Addingham being dealt with at the Abattoir. The remaining private slaughterhouse which was permitted to operate caters only for the meat used at the Scalebor Park Hospital and no sale to the general public is involved.

During the intervening years, one of the slaughterhouses closed was reconstructed and converted into use as a dairy, and the ownership of the private slaughterhouse in Menston changed hands and is now used as a fuel store attached to a private house.

In 1954, an application to the Council for renewal of the licence to operate the remaining private slaughterhouse was not approved, but on appeal by the owner to the Court, the Otley Justices decided that a licence should be granted. Two butchers in Burley used these premises for the slaughter of sheep. In August, 1954, the Council adopted a resolution under the Slaughterhouses Act of 1954 to the effect that "As from the 4th day of August, 1954, no fresh licence to keep premises as a slaughterhouse shall be granted by this Council under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, except for special reasons and that on the said 4th day of August, 1954, all such licences then in force shall cease to have effect and shall not be renewable." As a result of an objection to this resolution an Enquiry was held by the Ministry of Food at which the Council, the owner of the slaughterhouse, and other interested parties were represented. The decision of the Minister was given early in 1955 and the slaughterhouse was closed as and from the 7th of February, 1955. A claim for compensation by the owner was subsequently agreed by the Council.

Where ample facilities exist, such as at the Public Abattoir, the continuance of the use of private slaughterhouses is not favoured. All slaughtering should be centralised at this Abattoir, where there is standardisation of the business of preparing, housing and slaughtering of animals for human food. At the Abattoir there is proper supervision of all the aspects of meat production including ante-mortem inspection, supervision of methods of slaughtering, the prevention of cruelty, the adequate inspection of all carcasses and offals by a qualified inspector immediately after slaughter, and storage of meat in cooling rooms under hygienic conditions, thereby ensuring to the public a fresh meat supply, reliably clean, sound and free from disease. Only by this moderate form of centralisation is it possible to ensure that slaughtering and all methods of preparing meat for human food are carried out under suitable hygienic conditions and that all carcasses are properly inspected before being made available for human consumption.

There can be no doubts as to the adequacy of slaughtering facilities at the Council's Public Abattoir, both as regards equipment and accommodation. From 1940 to June, 1954, during "control" of slaughter by the Ministry of Food, the meat for all butchers (21 with 24 shops) in the Urban District was dealt with at the Council's Abattoir at Ilkley. Further, the meat supply of 3 butchers (with 3 shops) in Addingham in the Skipton Rural Area was also supplied from the Abattoir and at no time during this period was the Abattoir overcrowded or unable to deal with the through-put, and indeed the accommodation was such that a greater number of animals could have been dealt with.

The accompanying photographs portray part of the accommodation and facilities at the Public Abattoir. One shows a section of the main slaughtering hall and the other, half of one of the cooling rooms.

The Scalebor Park slaughterhouse, where animals are slaughtered for consumption by inmates of the Scalebor Park Institution, continued to operate

throughout the year and post-mortem inspection of the carcasses and offals of 39 bovines, 42 sheep and 10 pigs was carried out. Owing to the fact that slaughter is confined to a high class of animals and to these animals which have passed the Tuberculin Test, only small quantities of offals (some 150 lbs. in weight) were found to be in a diseased or unsound condition, the percentage of the number inspected affected with disease being 22.

### (c) Lairage of Animals

Although the Council do not provide pasturage for prolonged lairage of animals, there is ample covered accommodation at the Abattoir for temporary shelter of animals awaiting slaughter. It is now the practice of some butchers to purchase animals at the Auctions in advance of their requirements and to rest them in local pastures for approximately seven days before slaughter. In addition the outside lairage accommodation at the Abattoir has been used for this purpose and there is no doubt that the quality of the dressed carcass has benefitted from this rest. Little trouble has been experienced by noise from cattle in the Council's lairage.

### (d) Transport of Meat

All meat and offals despatched from the Abattoir to the various butchers' shops is transported either in the butchers' vans or in a motor vehicle fitted with a specially constructed container. This container is capable of being effectually closed on all sides, the internal surfaces are metal lined and are capable of being easily cleansed. In general, the transport of meat from the Abattoir is carried out in a satisfactory and hygienic manner.

### (e) Fatstock Guarantee Scheme, 1955/56

The Council continued to permit the use of the Public Abattoir as a Dead-weight Certification Centre on behalf of the Ministry of Food and the grading and certification of pigs is carried out by the Council's Sanitary Officers. This has undoubtedly encouraged greater use of the Abattoir for the slaughter of pigs and has accordingly increased the income from slaughtering fees. The Council are reimbursed for this service by the Minister of Food according to the number of pigs graded and certificates issued. The use of the Abattoir as a Centre is appreciated by butchers and farmers alike; the scheme has decided advantages to local pig keepers and has obviated inconvenience and lengthy journeys to Auctions, and during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1955, 47 local producers availed themselves of the facilities provided and 1,030 pigs were graded and certified, that is 63% of all pigs slaughtered at the Abattoir.

### (f) Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 and 1954

The provisions of these Acts, which are designed to prevent cruelty and unnecessary suffering to animals, were generally well observed during the year.

All animals dealt with at the Abattoir and private slaughterhouses are stunned prior to slaughter by means of a Captive Bolt "Humane Killer".

The Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954, which came into operation in October, 1954, amended existing legislation in respect of the licensing of premises for the slaughter of horses, methods of humane slaughter, etc., and necessitated the review of slaughtermen's licences. In future such licences will be renewable annually instead of each three years, and during 1955, all licences were renewed. There were 32 licensed slaughtermen on the register at the end of the year.

### (3) ICE-CREAM

The following are details of registered premises in the Urban District at the close of 1955.

Premises registered for manufacture and sale	..	6
Premises registered for sale only	.. ..	60
Premises registered for storage only	.. ..	Nil

There have been no new applications for the registration of premises for the manufacture or sale of ice-cream during the year. There are 60 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream, only a small proportion of the ice-cream manufactured in the district is sold at these premises, and the majority of the premises registered only for sale obtain their ice-cream wholesale from manufacturers whose registered premises are situated in other areas. Of the six premises registered for manufacture of ice-cream, only three now carry out the manufacturing process, one being equipped with "Complete Cold Mix" method, which obviates heat treatment of the mix and provision of expensive plant and equipment.

Ice-cream is now regarded not merely as a delicacy, but also as an article of food, and since it is an ideal medium for the growth of micro-organisms and by reason of its potentiality as a means of conveyance of infection by these organisms, special attention is devoted to all ice-cream premises, and particularly to the supervision of methods of manufacture, storage and distribution. As a check upon the efficiency and cleanliness of these methods samples of ice-cream were taken from vendors and manufacturers in the area, the result being expressed in two forms (a) Food Value, and (b) Cleanliness.

Samples taken from premises registered by the Council for Manufacture and Sale .. .. .	15
Samples taken from premises registered by the Council for Sale only .. .. .	20
Samples taken from itinerant vendors whose premises are situated outisid the Urban District .. ..	4
	<hr/> 39

#### (a) Food Value—Chemical Analysis

The fat content of samples varied from 5.2% to 14.1% with an average of 10.1%. The improvement in the food value of samples taken continues and will be better appreciated by comparing the fat content of samples taken during the past ten years.

#### FAT PERCENTAGES

				<i>Lowest</i>		<i>Highest</i>		<i>Average</i>
1946	..	..	..	0.25	..	11.16	..	3.32
1947	..	..	..	0.14	..	8.18	..	2.45
1948	..	..	..	0.04	..	11.60	..	4.40
1949	..	..	..	2.37	..	18.90	..	7.13
1950	..	..	..	3.52	..	15.20	..	8.24
1951	..	..	..	5.32	..	12.38	..	8.84
1952	..	..	..	5.76	..	14.10	..	8.91
1953	..	..	..	5.10	..	13.80	..	10.10
1954	..	..	..	5.49	..	13.69	..	10.26
1955	..	..	..	5.20	..	14.10	..	10.10

The Food Standards (Ice-Cream) Order of 1951 remained in operation and prescribes a minimum composition for ice-cream. The Order provides, with certain exceptions, that ice-cream must contain at least 5% fat, 10% sugar and 7½% milk solids other than fat, and whilst it was intended as an interim standard which it was proposed to improve as supplies of ingredients became more plentiful, no amendment had been made by the close of the year. All samples taken during 1955 were found to reach the required standard, and the foregoing table shows that the average fat percentage is well above the statutory minimum.



### (b) Cleanliness—Bacterial Quality

The 39 samples were also subjected to the Methylene Blue Test, a test which is a measure of the organisms in ice-cream. The number of such organisms is influenced by the degree of cleanliness of utensils and equipment during manufacture, storage and distribution and by the cleanliness and personal habits of manufacturers and vendors.

Grade	Time taken to reduce Methylene Blue	No. of Samples
1.	4½ hours or more Satisfactory .. ..	29
2.	2½ to 4 hours Satisfactory .. ..	5
3.	½ to 2 hours Fair .. ..	3
4.	0 hours Poor .. ..	2

Of the five samples graded as "Fair" and "Poor", only one is locally manufactured ice-cream. Following investigations and as a result of further samples, however, a satisfactory standard of bacterial quality was reached. The number of unsatisfactory samples is comparatively small, and though not quite the high standard reached in previous years, the record compares very favourably with other districts and indicates that the traders of this district have kept abreast with recent advances in equipment and technique. Approximately 80% of the ice-cream sold in this area is in pre-packed form, only a small quantity being dispensed from the open container and there is no doubt that the modern tendency of manufacturers of increased pre-packing of ice-cream has considerably reduced contamination during distribution and sale. The wrappings, incidentally, have added to the litter problem.

### (c) Sale of Ice-cream in the Open Air

The regulations formulated by the Health Committee to eliminate the dirty conditions in which bulk or loose ice-cream was being sold from stalls, carts, barrows, motor vehicles, etc., continue to be well observed by itinerant vendors, and the majority of neighbouring local authorities in the West Riding have followed Ilkley's lead and enforce similar requirements in their areas.

Section 79 of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act of 1951, by which local authorities require the registration of hawkers of food and their premises has been adopted by the Council, and this legislation, together with the Order of 1951, establishing a statutory standard of quality for ice-cream, and the Council's requirements in connection with the design and equipment of vehicles, now provide a reasonable measure of control over itinerant vendors who frequent this area during the summer months.

### (4) OTHER FOODS

During inspection of premises where food is stored or prepared for sale, and as a result of requests by shopkeepers etc., quantities of unsound foodstuffs were examined. The type of food dealt with was principally of the tinned variety, and these were found to be "blown" or "springy", and punctured or leaking caused by rusting or by nails having been driven through during packing operations, whilst the contents of others had decomposed due to faulty "tinning", "processing" or "sealing".

Tinned fruit represented 39% of the condemnations made and tinned meat and fish 44%. Condemnation certificates were issued to enable shopkeepers to obtain replacements or credits from wholesalers.

No instance of formal seizure of unsound foodstuffs was found to be necessary, and where practicable unsound food was disposed of for the feeding of pigs and poultry.

## (5) FOOD PREPARATION, STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION

Supervision at premises where food is prepared, stored or sold was continued during the year, particular attention being paid to Catering Establishments and those premises where meat, meat products and fish, etc., are prepared or sold.

Since Ilkley is a holiday resort, it is not surprising that the number of Catering Establishments in the area is greater than that in other districts of similar size or population. The total and the number inspected, however, is not confined to those premises which serve meals to the general public, such as cafes and hotel kitchens, but includes works' and school canteens, kitchens of schools, clubs, Institutions, etc. In general the equipment and conditions in the Catering Establishments were satisfactorily maintained during the year.

The modern tendency to the use of gas and electricity has contributed much towards the improvement in general cleanliness at food premises where preparation for retail sale by cooking is carried out. This is particularly applicable to Bakehouses and Fried Fish shops where, during recent years, there has been a gradual change-over from coal and coke fired ovens and ranges to gas and electricity. The cleanliness of the premises can be more easily maintained and there is a noticeable absence of dust from the former coal and coke firing and storage. At the close of 1955, of the 16 Bakehouses in the district, 7 use gas and 6 electricity, with only 3 coke fired ovens, whilst 9 of the Fried Fish shops use gas, 2 having coal fired ranges.

During inspections of these establishments and of other food preparing premises emphasis was placed upon matters of personal hygiene, for however modern and clean the premises and equipment, it is the odd case of neglect of an elementary precaution such as the washing of hands and cleaning of fingernails after a visit to the toilet, the fingering of the nose or mouth, coughing and sneezing over food or exposure of septic wounds, etc., which can cause an outbreak of food poisoning. Apart from the sickness and the possible danger to life which results, the effect of an outbreak of illness traceable to the food prepared at some particular premises is so detrimental to future business that owners or managers should ensure that all employees are being constantly reminded of the dangers of unhygienic habits. It is gratifying to report that no cases of food poisoning traceable to food prepared in the area occurred during the year, and whilst this is perhaps the criterion of the general effectiveness of the measures taken, there is no room for complacency in this vital matter.

Bye-Laws made under the Food and Drugs Act of 1938 are in operation in the district. These have the object of securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly practices and conditions in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food, and sale of food in the open air.

The following is a summary of the number of premises in the district at which foodstuffs in any form are sold, stored or prepared for sale (other than those already listed under the separate paragraphs, e.g. Dairies, Ice-cream, Food Hawkers and premises, etc.).

<i>Trade</i>	<i>Ilkley</i>	<i>Burley</i>	<i>Menston</i>	<i>Total</i>
Bakehouses .. ..	11	3	2	16
Catering Establishments .. ..	75	16	9	102
Confectionery .. ..	33	10	11	54
Fish .. ..	9	1	4	14
Fried Fish .. ..	6	4	1	11
Greengroceries .. ..	32	12	10	54
Groceries .. ..	37	19	12	68
Licensed Premises (Intoxicants) ..	24	8	8	40
Meat and Meat Products .. ..	15	6	3	24
Sugar Confectionery etc. .. ..	63	23	18	104

The number of premises on this list does not necessarily coincide with the number shown in Paragraphs 23 (Shops Act). All premises which sell sweets and sugar confectionery have been included under this heading, even though the sale of this commodity is on a small scale and does not constitute the principal business. Similarly all premises which sell greengroceries, are included as dealing in greengroceries, although the principal business may be groceries, etc.

178 or 58% of the 303 shops in the area are concerned in the sale of some form of food or drink.

Close co-operation is maintained with the Surveyor's Department in connection with plans of new buildings or alterations to buildings submitted for consideration by the Town Planning and Buildings Committee, and which are in any way associated with the preparation, storage and distribution of food stuffs. Such plans are passed to the Chief Sanitary Inspector for his observations and comments upon any instances of non-compliance with Food Hygiene etc., Acts and Regulations.

Two instances of foreign bodies in food stuffs were reported during the year. One was a cockroach found in a Date and Walnut Cake and the other a cigarette end in a Scone. The food stuffs were both prepared in local bakeries and the Council decided to take proceedings against the vendors. In the case of the cockroach, the defendant was found guilty of the offence by the Magistrates at the Otley Court and was given a conditional discharge on payment of costs. In the case of the cigarette end, the defendants were found guilty and were fined £2.

## (6) HAWKERS OF FOOD AND THEIR PREMISES

The Council have adopted Section 76 of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act of 1951, which provides that all hawkers of food and their premises shall be registered by the local authority.

At the close of 1955 the following registrations had been approved by the Council.

	<i>Hawkers</i>				<i>Premises</i>	
Greengrocers .. .. .	7	..	4			
Ice-cream .. .. .	8	..	—			
Bread and confectionery .. .. .	1	..	—			
Meat Products .. .. .	1	..	—			
Wet Fish, Poultry, etc. .. .. .	2	..	—			
Fried Fish and Chips .. .. .	1	..	1			

8 of the Hawkers registered are from neighbouring areas, with the Sanitary Officers of which contact is maintained to ensure that storage premises are satisfactory.

Two additional registrations were approved during the year, one for ice-cream and one for fried fish and chips. The latter is a mobile van, equipped with food storage facilities, frying range, and the necessary cleansing equipment in the form of sink, constant supply of hot water, etc.

## (7) OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are two offensive trade processes in the district, both of which are carried out in one building, that is, the Gut Scraping and Tripe Boiling establishment in Cemetery Road, Ilkley. The trades were well conducted during the year, and no complaints were received or nuisances detected during the inspections made.

Bye-Laws under section 108 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the regulation of these trades are in operation in the district.



## SECTION II—ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION

### (8) PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Public Cleansing services of Refuse Collection and Disposal and Street Cleansing have each been the subject of special reports to the Health Committee during the year.

The total labour force of the Department is fixed each year by the Council at the special meeting to deal with estimates of income and expenditure, and at the same time the complement for each of the Public Cleansing and other Health Services is defined. Whilst, therefore, each workman is allocated to a particular service, in practice, the majority are not regarded as specialists and must be capable of carrying out any work in the Department. The high cost of labour is a deterrent to an increase in the establishment of workmen to allow for temporary vacancies or absences, though the Department's records show that over the past 5 years the average loss of time through illness, holidays, etc., is 619 workings days per year, or the equivalent of a reduction in the available labour force for the Department of  $2\frac{3}{4}$  labour units for the whole year. Since deficiencies in refuse collection staff are supplemented by street sweepers, the general effect is that the number of men available for street cleansing is on the average more than 2 men short throughout the year.

Further, the absence of the Slaughterhouse Attendant, Conveniences Attendant, Tipmen, etc., is made good, not by hiring additional labour, but by transferring members of the existing staff of sweepers or refuse collectors.

#### (a) Refuse Collection

The collection and removal of house refuse is carried out entirely by the Cleansing staff of the Sanitary Department, and no work is let to private contractors. No charge is made for the removal of trade refuse from shops and business premises, but the Department does not remove builders' and contractors' refuse, nor is responsibility accepted for garden refuse. A charge, based upon the cost of the labour and haulage involved, is made for any accumulations of extra refuse such as those which occur upon the change of tenancy or ownership of residential or business premises. The removal of these extra accumulations, however, is not encouraged since special collections of this kind interfere with routine and retard normal collections.

With the exception of a small number of privies, ashpits and pail closets at outlying houses and farms, refuse is stored, pending collection, in metal dustbins of standard size and pattern, approximately 8,000 such containers being emptied during each complete collection round. Three double-cab "Chelsea" type S. & D. Freighters, each with a capacity of 11.3 cubic yards, are used for the collection of refuse. In the Burley Woodhead area, where some premises are inaccessible to the Freighters, a specially designed cart is used for the collection of refuse and the contents of privies and pails. This cart, which was formerly drawn by a horse, is now used on conjunction with a motor tractor, and the new arrangement has proved a more economical and expeditious method of collection. Except for isolated occasions due to snow and severe frost conditions, these premises have enjoyed a weekly collection of refuse, etc. throughout the year.

Each of the three refuse collection vehicles is manned by a driver and four men, and the average period between collections of refuse throughout the year has been 10 to 11 days. Despite heavy snowfalls and severe winter conditions, at no time was collection suspended, though access to certain premises in the higher parts of the area was necessarily delayed.

The distinctive feature of this district so far as refuse collection is concerned is the excessive length of "Carry" for each bin, the average distance from the roadway and vehicle to the bin being 24 yards. The absence of large areas of terrace houses and the hilly nature of some parts of the district with steep drives,

pathways and steps, militates against a speedy rate of collection, and in some places there is a decided element of danger to a collector with a full receptacle on his shoulders. It will be appreciated that the work of refuse collection is a young man's job, and every endeavour is made to employ on refuse collection only men who are young, healthy and free from physical deformity, as this arduous service involves severe physical effort over long periods. It is this and the difficulty of recruiting suitable men for the work, that the rate of pay is higher than that of the normal labourer.

#### **(b) Refuse Disposal**

During 1955 all house refuse collected in the Urban District was disposed of by controlled tipping at two sites, one at Poorfields, Sun Lane, Burley and one at Cocken End, Skipton Road, Ilkley. Street sweepings and the contents from the cleansing of street gullies are also brought to these tips.

The problem of future disposal of refuse in the Urban District was again under consideration during the year and following negotiations with the Otley Urban District Council the use of a small quarry known as West Chevin Delph, Menston, was obtained for tipping purposes. This quarry is situated outside this Urban District boundary, and it is estimated that it will accommodate refuse from Burley and Menston for approximately three years. The use of a further site in Menston was also obtained by permission from the Menston Hospital. This is a disused railway cutting and will provide disposal facilities for Burley and Menston refuse for approximately two years. These sites however confine disposal to one end of the district and are not sufficiently extensive to solve the problem. At the close of 1955 accommodation at Cocken End, Ilkley for the disposal of refuse from the Ilkley district had been reduced to 12 months. Extension of this tip at Cocken End had eventually to be abandoned since the intake of water from the river for the proposed new water supply scheme is situated at a point on the river near the tip, and the possibility of pollution, however remote, precludes further consideration of extending this site as a tip. The County Planning Authority suggested the use of land near Victoria Avenue, Ilkley on the grounds that this site might at some future date be used for the erection of a school, and in this case playing fields would have to be provided. As the site is a sloping one it was suggested that level playing fields would have to be constructed and the levelling could be done by means of the tipping of household refuse. After consideration, however, the Council decided against the adoption of the suggestion. The site adjoins houses of high rateable value in a particularly pleasant residential area. The use of this site would be comparatively expensive, involving the culverting of a stream, the provision of extra covering materials which are in short supply, the provision of approach roads, etc.

Following reports by the Chief Sanitary Inspector, extension on to agricultural land at the west end of the present tip at Sun Lane Burley, was eventually approved by the Council, and at the end of the year the scheme was awaiting observations of the Planning Authorities. The use of this site would be comparatively inexpensive and would provide accommodation for the district's refuse for approximately 15 years. This tip would be used for the refuse of the whole area, and the advantage of the use of a single site in a central position is that labour could be concentrated to one tip, enabling some economy in covering materials to be effected, with consequent saving in labour and haulage.

Each of the two men employed in refuse disposal duties has received a fortnight's training in Controlled tipping at the Bradford Corporation tips. This labour is concentrated upon each tip in turn according to the district in which refuse collection is being carried out. Under these arrangements the three vehicles concentrate first upon the Ilkley district and the two tipmen are engaged during this period on the Cocken End tip. When refuse from Ilkley has been cleared, the three vehicles proceed to Burley and Menston and the two tipmen then work on the Sun Lane tip. In practice, whilst this system has the advantage

of concentrating the existing labour on disposal, difficulties have arisen as a result of unauthorised and indiscriminate tipping during the periods each of the tips is closed. Gates have been provided, the fences strengthened and notice boards erected at both tips as a warning to trespassers, but several instances of unauthorised tipping have occurred. The Department does not now permit any person to deposit refuse, spoil or other material on the tips unless the tipmen are present, and whilst this has occasionally caused some inconvenience to contractors and others by the necessity for longer haulage, it is only by this means that the tips can be properly controlled.

Plentiful covering material is essential to the proper operation of controlled tipping and difficulty was encountered in maintaining a regular and ample supply of this material. Occasionally arrangements had to be made to hire haulage to obtain accumulations of ashes and clinkers, and on many occasions this material had to be collected by the refuse collection vehicles, though time taken in this operation had an adverse effect upon the refuse collection service.

At the Sun Lane tip, where flooding has occurred during winter months, a modified scheme of land drainage was carried out, but this has not been entirely successful in preventing flooding of adjoining land and it is proposed to carry out further works of drainage during 1956.

### (c) Salvage Collection and Disposal

Salvage is collected on the refuse collection round and is stored separately in trailers attached to the refuse collection vehicles.

The recovery of salvage continued to be an important function of the Department throughout the year, and the income from sales, particularly of waste paper, provides a welcome contribution towards the cost of the refuse collection and disposal services. During the war years when the scarcity of raw materials made the recovery of salvage a vital necessity, the target aimed at by each local authority was one ton of waste paper per 1,000 of the population per month, and the monthly target for Ilkley was, therefore, 17 tons. It is gratifying to report that the majority of householders, shopkeepers and others have so responded to the appeals for salvage that the average monthly figure for 1955 was 25 tons, (1954—18 $\frac{3}{4}$  tons). Greater quantities of paper are now available, however, newspapers and magazines are larger and more plentiful and the use of cardboard for packages is more prevalent, and the target of 17 tons is easier to reach.

Observations on the collection round and during the disposal and tipping of refuse, however, clearly show that substantial quantities of waste paper are being wasted. A great deal of paper in the form of newspapers, cardboard boxes, etc., is being placed in the dustbins and once this material is mixed with other household refuse, particularly wet refuse, its recovery in the tip face is impracticable. Sacks are issued as an incentive to householders and others to keep waste paper separate from the other domestic rubbish, and during 1955 the Council approved the introduction of a modified Bonus Scheme for the workmen to stimulate the recovery of increased quantities of waste paper and other materials of value.

All salvage is dealt with at the Depot in Railway Road, Ilkley, and during the 12 months ended 31st December, 1955, £2,558 has been realised from the sale of 326 tons of miscellaneous salvage (1954—£1,615 from 246 tons), the most lucrative commodity being waste paper, 302 tons being sold for £2,326. The cost to the Council of salvage collection and disposal is comparatively small; the expenses of collection are negligible, the material being obtained during refuse collection, whilst labour involved in its disposal is reduced to a minimum. The whole of the sorting and baling of paper, together with other work in connection with rags, carpets, scrap metals, etc., was formerly carried out by one man, but the yield of waste paper increased during the year by over 30% and



the sorting and baling of this was beyond the capacity of one man. Additional part-time labour was employed to deal with the excess, and at the end of the year the small hand baling machine was replaced by an electrical machine. Two electrically driven machines are now in use for the baling of rags and paper.

It is interesting to note that since 1940, 2,965 tons of waste paper have been salvaged and sold, whilst a total income from all salvage exceeds £29,000.

#### (d) Street Cleansing

Street Cleansing is under the control of the Sanitary Department and the service includes, in addition to the removal of street refuse, the clearing of grit, chippings, etc., resulting from attrition of road surfaces, together with the weeding of channels and pathways.

The normal routine work of street sweeping is carried out by seven manual workers and one Karrier/Yorkshire mechanical sweeper. Five of the men are employed in the Ilkley area, one in Burley and one in Menston. The mechanical sweeper is engaged upon a regular rota of sweeping which includes the classified roads under the control of the West Riding County Council Highways Department.

Reduction in the number of street cleansing personnel recommended by the Chief Sanitary Inspector in 1953 to one man in Burley and one in Menston, has proved satisfactory and has effected an economy in labour costs without detriment to the service. The men in these localities are each provided with a Street Orderly cart and under ordinary circumstances this labour force has been found to be adequate to keep the highways in these areas in a clean and tidy state. In Ilkley, however, owing to the policy of using sweepers to make good absences of refuse collectors, the street cleansing service, particularly during the summer months, was unsatisfactory. The employment of street sweepers to replace refuse collectors absent due to illness or holidays naturally depleted the staff available for sweeping and weeding, and this reduced labour force has not been able to keep pace with the growth of weeds in the area during the summer months. Owing to the untidy state of many of the roads and footpaths in the district during the early summer, the Council followed the procedure of last year and employed volunteer refuse collectors and other men in the Department to carry out weeding during the evenings. This scheme has proved to be a satisfactory solution to the shortage of labour during the "weeding" period.

The Karrier Bantam refuse collection vehicle is used for the picking up of street sweepings, as well as being employed as a substitute vehicle during breakdown of a freighter. This machine is an essential utility vehicle, and is also used for extra collections of refuse, collection of covering materials for tips, etc.

In addition to the clearing of the normal day-to-day accumulations of debris, the Department also attends to the removal of dead dogs and cats from the public highways, and from time to time is called upon to remove the carcasses of sheep which have died naturally or by accident.

Following snowfalls and hard frosts, when normal street cleansing work is impracticable, the Department's staff of street sweepers is loaned to the Highways Department to assist in snow clearing or sanding and gritting.

The extent of the additional work imposed on the Street Cleansing service as a result of severe winter conditions is probable not fully appreciated. After the thaw all available labour in the Sanitary Department is directed to clearing up the gritting material thrown down by the Highways Department and this must eventually be cleared by the Sanitary Department. During the winter periods, several hundred tons of ashes, gravel and chippings were deposited on roads and footpaths by the Highways Department and subsequently cleared by the Sanitary Department, and this work is repeated after each successive snowfall and thaw. Whatever other benefits are derived from this work, the grit and debris cleared up does provide ideal covering material for the Controlled tips.

## (9) HOUSING

The enforcement of the provision of the Housing Acts relating to the inspection of properties for "housing" defects, reports in respect of the closure and demolition of unfit houses, and investigation of overcrowded conditions, etc., are the responsibility of the Sanitary Department, and some statistics in connection with this work will be found in Appendices 2 and 4.

Although the majority of the property owners co-operate with the Department in regard to essential repairs to house property, there is the usual hard core of landlords who disregard informal notices requesting the repair of sanitary defects. In many cases this unwillingness on the part of the owners to carry out necessary maintenance work to their property is undoubtedly associated with the limited rents and the increasing costs of building work. The number of cases where informal action failed to secure a remedy, however, is not excessive; it was necessary for the Council to resort to formal notice in only four instances, and no court action to enforce compliance with statutory notice has been taken during the year.

The Council have adopted Regulations under Section 12(2) of the Housing Act, 1936 in respect of underground rooms, and at 6, Wells Walk, Ilkley, a Closing Order was made in respect of the basement rooms which are unfit for human habitation and which cannot be made fit at reasonable expense. A Closing Order was also made prohibiting further use for human habitation of the Top Flat (Flat 18), at "The Heights", 5, West View, Ilkley.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, which came into operation in 1954, made further provision for the clearance and re-development of unfit housing accommodation, and for securing and promoting the reconditioning and maintenance of houses, etc. The Act also contained provisions in connection with rent control and permitted increase of rent for dwelling-houses in good repair. This "Repairs Increase" is only justified under certain conditions, namely, that the dwelling-house is in good repair and is reasonably suitable for occupation, etc., and that the landlord has produced satisfactory evidence of repair to a specified value during a specified period. The extent of the increase is controlled under the Act and provision is made for tenants, after receipt of notice from landlords of repairs increase, to apply to the local authority for a "Certificate of Disrepair" in respect of the dwelling-house. Inspection of premises upon application to the council by tenants is made by your Sanitary Officers, and if the local authority is satisfied that the dwelling-house fails to fulfil the conditions, they shall certify accordingly in the prescribed form. Until such certificate has been cancelled by the local authority no repairs increase is recoverable by the landlord. It is rather surprising that tenants have not taken greater advantage of this new legislation, as the number of applications for certificates of disrepair has been less than anticipated, and although the provisions of the Act have been given local and national publicity, this may be due in some cases to uncertainty of the part of the tenants. Though the practical work in connection with this part of the Act has so far been less than expected, a good deal of time has been spent in advising landlord and tenants upon some of the more complicated rent control provisions.

In connection with applications for Improvement Grants this Department works in co-operation with the Surveyor and an inspection of all premises involved in application for grants is made by the Sanitary Department. This is to ensure that no grant is made in respect of premises which are included in future slum clearance proposals, as well as to draw attention to structural and other defects in the property. A certificate is given, where appropriate, that the premises, after improvement, should have a useful life of at least 15 years.

The survey of housing conditions in the area was continued during the year and as previously reported, the problem, so far as slum clearance is concerned in this Urban District, is not a large one. The report submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government indicated that a total of approximately



70 unfit houses would be dealt with during the next five years, by way of closure or demolition. After consideration of the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector by the Health Committee and the Housing Committee it was decided that so far as practicable these properties be dealt with at the rate of 14 per year over the next five years.

Your Sanitary Officers in the course of their general duties acquire unique and intimate knowledge of both people and housing conditions in the area, and this specialised knowledge has been made use of by the Housing Committee in their selection of tenants and allocation of accommodation. At the request of the Committee, inspections and investigations were made in connection with the applications for Council houses and detailed reports were submitted with a view to assisting in the assessment of the relative merits of each application. Such reports included details of the applicant's accommodation and any insanitary and/or overcrowded conditions, together with other information and intimate details acquired by the Department and which might be helpful to the Committee.

The standard set out in the Housing Act, 1936, is used for the determination of overcrowding, and this basis is strictly adhered to, so as to ensure that all cases are considered in a fair and consistent manner. There is no accurate information available as to the incidence of statutory overcrowding in the area, but the number of cases brought to notice is not unduly high. Seven houses were known to be overcrowded at the end of 1954, and three of these cases were relieved during 1955, leaving four outstanding at the close of 1955.

In connection with housing the following statistics are of interest:

During 1955 the erection of 76 new Council houses or flats was completed. Under private enterprise 64 houses were built and 7 houses were converted into flats, providing additional accommodation for 20 families.

Since 1945, 400 Council houses, Two Bedroom Flats, and Old Persons Flats have been erected. Private building development has contributed 204 new houses, and the conversion of 67 large houses has resulted in the provision of 157 flats, making a grand total of 761 new housing units at the close of 1955.

## **(10) VERMIN INFESTATION CONTROL**

### **(a) Rodents**

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

No evidence of undue infestation by rats or mice was found during the course of the year, though several minor infestations were discovered by inspections and after complaints by householders, shop-keepers, etc.

Poison biscuits and bait are distributed free upon personal application to the Sanitary Department, and when necessary, advice upon baiting and rat-proofing is given on a visit to the site.

The food scraps and organic matter placed in the bins by householders is a natural attraction to rats, and to prevent major infestation of the tips monthly treatments are carried out with pre-bait and poison, Regular treatments are also carried out at the Council's Sewage Disposal Plants at Ilkley, Ben Rhydding and Burley.

Up-to-date methods and established poisons are used in the disinfection of properties, the poisons most commonly used being zinc phosphide with rusk or sugar meal, "Warfarin" with rusk and "Antu" with sugar meal. In only one case did necessity arise for formal action under legal powers, all other cases of infestation being dealt with by informal notice.

59 premises were treated for infestation by rats and 12 for infestation by mice.

## (b) Insect Pests

Infestation of premises by insect pests is becoming difficult to find and whilst it is not possible to declare that insects such as bed bugs have been eradicated in the district, no case of infestation by this pest has come to notice during the last four years. It can, however, be stated with confidence that the incidence of infestation by the more repulsive type of insect pest such as the bed bug and the flea, is very low indeed. No necessity arose for the treatment of premises by poison gas (H.C.N.), and with the exception of wasps' nests, when Cyanide is used, all treatments of infested properties are carried out with D.D.T. or Gammexane preparations; residual spray (5% D.D.T. with kerosene or other solvent) or Gammexane dispersible powder (P. 520), being most frequently used.

The following are details of insect pests dealt with.

**Fleas.** (*Pulex Irritans*). Three houses were treated for infestation by fleas and the insects destroyed by the use of D.D.T. residual spray.

**Cockroaches.** (*Blatella Orientalis*). Two instances of infestation were dealt with by the use of Gammexane Dispersible Powder.

**Crickets.** (*Gryllus*). During the Spring and Summer, treatments by Gammexane Dispersible Powder were carried out on the Refuse tips for small infestation by crickets.

**Flies.** (a) **Common House Fly.** (*Musca Domestica*). One house was treated with residual spray (D.D.T.) to control a severe infestation. The breeding ground of the flies was also found and dealt with.

(b) **Cluster Fly.** (*Pollenia*). One house was treated for minor infestation by "Cluster Flies", a species of fly which invades houses in the autumn and remains in a comatose condition through the winter, re-appearing when the weather becomes warmer.

**Wasps.** 10 wasps' nests were reported and investigated. Potassium cyanide is used where the nests are in the ground or other inaccessible positions. Where, however, the nests are fully exposed and readily accessible, it is found that all that is necessary is to saturate the nests with residual spray and the following day the nests may be removed without danger. An appropriate charge is made for the destruction of wasps' nests upon private property, though the disposal of nests on or immediately adjoining a public highway is carried out free of charge.

## (11) SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

Practically all the sanitary conveniences of residential and business premises in the area are on the water carriage system. There are, however, a number of pail closets and privies in use at Woodhead, Burley, and Moor Lane and Chevin End, Menston, though these will readily convert to water closets when new sewers are constructed (See Drainage and Sewerage).

By the extension to the Public Conveniences in the Car Park, South Hawke-worth Street, and the erection of new conveniences on the riverside adjoining New Brook Street, Ilkley, the Urban District is now well provided with sanitary accommodation for use by the public, there being twelve blocks of conveniences with accommodation for both sexes. The Council employ one full-time attendant for maintenance and cleansing work of public conveniences at Ilkley and one part-time attendant to deal with the conveniences at Burley and Menston. It is necessary to carry out some supervision at week-ends and bank holidays, particularly during the summer, since it is on these occasions when the conveniences suffer the greatest abuse. The vigilance displayed by the local Police has contributed to the comparative freedom from wanton damage to the conveniences during the year.

## **(12) SMOKE ABATEMENT**

The District is not unduly troubled with excessive smoke or grit emission from industrial undertakings. There are few large works or mills in the area and in general the boiler plants at such premises are well managed. A number of smoke observations were made and in cases of excessive smoke emission improvement was effected after informal action by the Department.

The smoke pollution in the area emanates principally from domestic chimneys and this is clearly demonstrated when the inhabited areas are viewed from a vantage point on the moors or the Cow and Calf.

.. Bye-Laws made under section 2 of the Public Health (Smoke Abatement) Act, 1926, are in operation and provide that "The emission of black smoke for a period of two minutes in the aggregate within any continuous period of thirty minutes from any building other than a private dwelling-house shall until the contrary is proved, be presumed to be a nuisance".

Nuisance arose from smoke and grit following the installation of a new boiler at a local dairy. The height of the chimney to this boiler had been restricted by the Planning Authority, and in practice, though the boiler is fired by mechanical means, this has had the effect of retarding rapid dissipation of the products of combustion. The height of the adjoining buildings and dwelling houses is such that there was a strong tendency to down-draught and a cowl on the chimney accentuated this nuisance. Many smoke observations and tests for grit emission were made, and some improvement in the amount of grit emitted from the chimney was effected, though it was felt that only the raising of the height of the chimney and the removal of the cowl will prove of material benefit. The matter was to be further considered by the Council in the new year.

## **(13) INFECTIOUS DISEASE PREVENTION**

Disinfection, by formaldehyde gas, of premises after cases of infectious disease, was carried out following the removal of the patients to the Isolation Hospital, or after recovery if nursed at home.

Premises are also disinfected after illness or death from non-infectious disease upon written request, and arrangements are made through this Department for the steam disinfection of bedding, rugs, cushions, etc. Owing to lack of facilities in this area arrangements are made for the steam disinfection of bedding etc., to be carried out at the Leeds Corporation Disinfecting Plant, transport being provided by the Leeds Corporation Health Department. The actual cost of this service is recovered from the owner in cases of disinfection after a non-notifiable disease or illness.

## **(14) CAMPING SITES**

At the close of 1954 there were 6 established camping sites in the area, five in Burley and 1 in Ilkley.

The Burley sites are all situated in the Woodhead area and contain a total of 71 hutments, whilst in Ilkley the site is used for moveable dwellings only and the number limited to 35.

Though the majority of the semi-permanent hutments on the Burley Woodhead sites are occupied only at week-ends and holiday times, a number of them are used for human habitation all the year round. Apart from their unsatisfactory appearance many of them are unsuitable for this purpose on public health grounds. The sanitary arrangements are primitive, facilities for the disposal of waste and slop water are inadequate, water supplies are taken from moorland springs and the distribution points are some distance from the hutments. The buildings are small and constructed of temporary materials, of which wood predominates, and over the years many off-shoots and appendages have been made to the existing structures which have increased general unsightliness.



This part of Wharfedale has undoubted attractions for a city dweller and it is understandable that a camper will wish to spend his week-end in the area, though development in the form of additional dwellings and extension of existing hutments on camping sites is not permitted by the Council. There were several instances of the use of private farmland and the river bank at Middleton by isolated caravans, but verbal warnings have been sufficient to secure the removal of the dwellings.

Applications for the use of two caravans for human habitation in the Menston area were rejected by the Council during the year.

## **(15) RIVERS AND STREAMS**

Several cases of pollution were detected and dealt with during the year. In the majority of cases the pollution was traced to the overflow of cesspools or defective condition of private septic tanks and sewage disposal plants. Many of the cesspools, sumps and septic tanks in the Moor Lane and Woodhead areas of Burley are badly designed, and since there is little or no filtration of the effluent, continuous pollution of the streams from Woodhead occurs. In some outlying districts where the extension of the existing sewerage system is unlikely, special attention is devoted to the private disposal arrangements and any new plants constructed must be designed on scientific principles, and be provided with approved mechanical means of distributing the sewage from the septic tank over the filter. Any plans submitted to the Surveyor's Office are passed to this Department for comment before being submitted to the Town Planning and Buildings Committee.

A number of instances occur each year in which plumbing and building contractors have connected the waste from sinks, washbasins, and even water closets to surface water drainage systems and to streams, and subsequent investigations by the Department show that a little extra time spent by the Contractor in tracing the outfall of the drain would have obviated the subsequent nuisance. It is frequently found, too, that these additional sanitary fitments have been fitted without notice to the appropriate Department of the Council and there was, therefore, no opportunity of supervising the work.

## **(16) WATER SUPPLIES**

### **(a) Public Supply**

The control and supervision of the public water supplies is carried out by the Water Engineer.

The water supply of this Urban District is essentially soft in character, being drawn from moorland gathering grounds, and regular treatment is necessary to counteract the acid nature of the water. Routine samples are taken at regular intervals by the Sanitary Department for evidence of plumb-solvent action, and 28 samples were obtained during the course of the year, so arranged that the supply from each reservoir is sampled at least twice. The Analyst's reports indicated that plumbo-solvent action was absent in all cases.

### **(b) Private Supplies**

The Sanitary Department is responsible for the supervision of private water supplies in regard to quality and sufficiency.

Within recent years informal action by the Department has secured connection to the public mains of a number of premises which formerly obtained their water from private sources and at the end of the year there only remained 35 premises throughout the area which obtain water from private sources. 16 of these houses are situated in the Burley Woodhead district, 16 are in Ilkley and 3 in Burley. With one exception, a well in Burley, these premises obtain their domestic supply from deep or surface springs. The number of houses with private supplies, therefore, is very small, and is, in fact only 0.6% of the 5,764 separate dwellings in the Urban District. Statistics of the number of separate

dwelling in England and Wales with private water supplies are not available, but in terms of population, approximately 3.5% obtain their water from private sources and 96.5% enjoy a piped supply. Comparative figures for the Ilkley Urban District are approximately 0.75% and 99.25% respectively.

Wherever practicable connection with the Council's water main is urged, for whilst there is no evidence of apparent ill effect upon the health of the persons drinking water from the private supplies in the area, it is not possible for Officers of the Sanitary Department to exercise constant supervision, and the danger lies in the possibility that the water may at any time be contaminated by dangerous excremental pollution of human origin.

Samples of water for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination are taken from the private supplies from time to time during the year and a number of minor improvements have been effected at sources of supply, storage tanks, etc.

In addition to the 35 permanent dwellings already mentioned, there are 71 semi-permanent hutments on the Burley Camping Sites which obtain their water from moorland springs.

## **(17) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE**

Apart from the construction of sewers for the Council's new housing sites, and small extensions to existing sewers in connection with private building developments, etc., no large scale sewerage schemes were commenced during 1955.

During recent years attention has been drawn in these reports to the sanitary arrangements and sewage disposal facilities at Moor Lane and Woodhead, Burley and Moor Lane and Chevin End, Menston, conditions at which are unsatisfactory and prejudicial to health. Following application to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for loan sanction for the extension of sewers at Burley Woodhead and Chevin End, Menston, an Enquiry was held in November when an Engineering Inspector of the Ministry visited the district and made an inspection of the sites. Following this Enquiry the Minister indicated that he approved of the Burley Woodhead and Chevin End Sewerage Schemes in principle, subject to certain exceptions, but that the degree of need for the proposed scheme appeared to the Minister to be only slight. Having regard to the appeals from the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, to secure economies wherever possible and to refrain, save in cases of exceptional need, from undertaking new services which would involve additional expenditure, the Minister requests the Council to consider whether their proposals in this respect should be proceeded with at the present time. The matter is to be further considered by the Council during 1956.

The mechanical gully emptier continues to give efficient service and was operated on a full-time basis throughout the year. During periods when it is not employed by the Council the machine is in great demand by the West Riding County Council and the neighbouring Urban District of Otley and the Rural District Councils of Wharfedale and Skipton, for the cleansing of street gullies, cesspools, septic tanks, etc. This machine is one of the greatest assets of the Department from a Public Health viewpoint; it has enabled essential work to be done at private premises, which by laborious hand methods would have been neglected. Its use has obviated the out of date, unsightly and insanitary methods of emptying street gullies by hand scoops, and in the absence of pumping equipment, the emptying of various types of sewage tanks by buckets and rope.

The machine has been used for a wide variety of purposes during the year, including the emptying and cleansing of street gullies, grit chambers, cesspools, septic tanks, petrol oil and grit interceptors, sewer grit chambers, tanks, sludge lagoons, choked drain inspection chambers, sewer manholes, the flushing of



drains and public sewers, the pumping of water and sewage from flooded excavations and cellars, and the clearing of Gasworks effluent sumps and residues from gas-holders. This list of work performed by the machine gives some indication of the scope of its use and its value to the Council's environmental health services.

The Department devotes special attention to premises which are not connected to the Council's sewers and sewerage system. The sewage from the majority of these premises is dealt with in cesspools or small disposal plants, which usually consist of a septic tank and filter. These appliances are situated some distance from the premises concerned and are consequently "out of sight and out of mind". It is not unusual therefore to find them in a defective and neglected condition. There are approximately 180 premises in the district which are not connected to the Council's sewerage system.

#### **(18) PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951**

This Act provides, briefly, that a licence must be obtained from the local authority to keep a pet shop, and the authority may arrange for the inspection of licensed pet shops by their officers. Pets are not to be sold in streets or public places except from stall or barrows in a market and must not be sold to children under 12 years of age.

There were two licences in force in the district at the close of 1955, one in Ilkley and one in Burley. These premises were well conducted and no instances of unsatisfactory conditions were found.

#### **(19) HAIRDRESSERS AND BARBERS AND THEIR PREMISES**

Section 120 of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951, is in operation in the area, and provides that no person shall carry on the business of a hairdresser or barber on any premises in the district unless he and those premises are registered by the local authority. There were 26 hairdressers and 24 premises on the register at the close of 1955.

The hairdressers and barbers in this area maintain a high standard of cleanliness as regards premises and equipment, and the Bye-Laws for the purpose of securing the cleanliness of premises, instruments, towels, materials, equipment, etc., and the cleanliness of persons employed were well observed, throughout the year.

#### **(20) RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951**

This is an Act to secure the use of clean filling materials in upholstered articles and other articles which are stuffed or lined, etc. There are 8 premises registered for upholstering etc., in pursuance of Section 2, and 8 licences were issued for the storage of rag flock under Section 7.

### **SECTION III—INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE**

#### **(21) FACTORIES**

Routine inspections of factories have been made under the Factories Act, 1937 and 1948, and in general the provisions of the Acts and the various Orders and Regulations affecting the welfare and comfort of the workers have been complied with.

#### **(22) WORKPLACES AND OFFICES**

No special action has been taken.

## (23) SHOPS ACT, 1950

In general conditions in shops are satisfactory and apart from informal action in regard to the renewal of internal decorations and the repair and cleansing of sanitary arrangements, no special action was found to be necessary.

The following statistics show the number and types of shops in the Urban District as at 31st December, 1955.

<i>Trade or Business</i>	<i>Ilkley</i>	<i>Burley</i>	<i>Menston</i>	<i>Total</i>
Antiques .. .. .	3	—	—	3
Butchers .. .. .	15	6	3	24
Carpets and Lino. .. .. .	1	—	—	1
Chemists .. .. .	5	2	1	8
Children's Outfitters .. .. .	2	—	—	2
Confectioners .. .. .	7	3	3	13
Cycle Dealers .. .. .	2	—	—	2
Drapers .. .. .	9	—	1	10
Fancy Goods .. .. .	1	—	—	1
Fishmonger, Game, Poultry .. .. .	—	1	—	1
Florist, Nurserymen, etc. .. .. .	2	—	1	3
Footwear .. .. .	10	2	1	13
Fried Fish .. .. .	6	4	1	11
Gas Appliances .. .. .	1	—	—	1
General Stores .. .. .	1	—	—	1
Gents Outfitters .. .. .	5	—	—	5
Glass, China, etc. .. .. .	1	—	—	1
Gowns, Suits, etc. .. .. .	2	—	—	2
Greengrocers & Fishmongers .. .. .	9	—	4	13
Greengrocers & General Goods .. .. .	—	4	—	4
Grocers .. .. .	32	14	8	54
Hairdressers .. .. .	14	3	2	19
House Furnishers .. .. .	6	1	—	7
Ironmongers, Hardware, etc. .. .. .	3	—	1	4
Jewellers .. .. .	4	—	—	4
Knitting Wools, Knitwear .. .. .	4	—	—	4
Ladies Wear .. .. .	12	2	1	15
Leather Goods, Sports Outfitters .. .. .	1	—	—	1
Milliners .. .. .	1	—	—	1
Newsagents, Tobacconists, etc. .. .. .	9	3	2	14
Painters & Decorators .. .. .	4	2	1	7
Pet Stores .. .. .	1	1	—	2
Plumbing & Sanitary Appliances .. .. .	2	2	1	5
Radio, T.V. & Electrical Appliances .. .. .	10	2	—	12
Second-hand Dealers .. .. .	1	—	—	1
Stationery .. .. .	2	1	—	3
Sugar Confectionery, Tobacconists, etc. .. .. .	16	7	2	25
Tea & Coffee Stores .. .. .	1	—	—	1
Toys, Sugar Confectionery, Tobacconists .. .. .	2	—	—	2
Wines & Spirits .. .. .	3	—	—	3
<b>Totals .. .. .</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>303</b>

The list does not include the stalls (Fishmonger and Greengrocer, etc.) which occupy the open market in New Brook Street, Ilkley, for two days each week.

The above list is confined to those which have shop premises where a retail sale takes place, and does not include places which are merely workshops, workplaces, or premises at which the primary business is devoted to transactions carried out in connection with work done, e.g. Dry Cleaners, Footwear Repairers, etc.

When deciding upon the category in which to place each separate business, an attempt has been made to apply to each shop the most appropriate and comprehensive description, but the classification of some shops presented difficulty in deciding which is the principal business carried on. No attempt has been made, for instance, to separate shops devoting sales chiefly to "Soft Furnishings" from the general description "House Furnishers". A number of Grocers also sell small quantities of greengroceries, sweets and other goods, but since the trade is primarily that of Grocer they have been so classified.

Confusion arises in connection with shops which sell miscellaneous articles such as toys, sweets, newspapers, fancy goods, etc., whilst some shops which deal predominantly in greengroceries also sell fish, game, and poultry. Most newsagents and tobacconists also sell sweets and sugar confectionery, and in this respect the lists in Paragraph 5 (Food Preparation, Storage and Distribution), will not coincide with the above—all shops which sell foodstuffs in any form come into the category of Food Premises, and are listed according to the kind of foodstuff sold, whether the retail sale of food is the predominant business or not.

The table indicates that the total number of shops in the Urban District is 303, or one shop per 56 inhabitants in the area. This is well above the average for Great Britain which, it is understood, is one shop per 89 inhabitants.

#### (24) MISCELLANEOUS

Duties in connection with Petroleum Storage, Hackney Carriages, Game Licences, Mortuary, etc., though not all associated with environmental hygiene and public health, are also included in the work of the Sanitary Department.

### APPENDICES

The following appendices show, so far as it is possible to do so in the form of tables and statistics, the approximate number of visits, inspections, etc., made, together with improvements carried out in environmental sanitation in dwelling-houses, factories, etc. The information is given in statistical form in accordance with the provisions of the Sanitary Officers Regulations. Some imagination is required when considering these tabular statements, however, as mere numbers give little indication either of the volume of work done or the effectiveness of the public health measures taken.

# APPENDIX 1

## RECORDS OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

### Inspections, etc., at:—

Abattoir .. .. .	401
Bakehouses .. .. .	42
Catering Establishments .. .. .	74
Dairies and Milkshops .. ....	31
Dairy Farms .. .. .	8
Dangerous and Dilapidated structures .. .. .	3
Entertainment Houses .. .. .	4
Factories—with mechanical power .. .. .	66
Factories—without mechanical power .. .. .	56
Food Preparing etc., Premises .. .. .	172
Fried Fish Premises .. .. .	34
Hairdressers' Premises .. .. .	18
Houses —re Dirty Conditions .. .. .	15
—re "Housing" defects, etc. .. .. .	674
—re Lodgers in Council Houses .. .. .	2
—re Permitted Numbers .. .. .	2
—re Overcrowding .. .. .	9
—re Application for Council House .. .. .	75
—re Infectious Diseases .. .. .	42
Houses let-in-lodgings .. .. .	9
Ice-cream premises .. .. .	58
Moveable Dwellings .. .. .	21
Offensive Trade Premises .. .. .	8
Pet Shops .. .. .	4
Piggeries .. .. .	67
Private Slaughterhouses .. .. .	68
Public Conveniences .. .. .	36
Schools .. .. .	16
Shops—re Shops Act .. .. .	87
Stables .. .. .	16
Tips and Salvage Depot.. .. .	402
Workplaces and Offices .. .. .	7

### Visits or inspections re:—

Accumulations (Offensive) .. .. .	21
Animals, Poultry, Swine, etc. .. .. .	18
Cellars re dampness and flooding .. .. .	171
Cesspools and Septic Tanks .. .. .	134
Drainage Work, Sanitary Appliances .. .. .	492
Insect Pests .. .. .	34
Nuisances and Complaints .. .. .	161
Pollution of Rivers and Streams .. .. .	30
Rag Flock Act, etc. .. .. .	8
Rats and Mice Infestations .. .. .	152
Refuse and Salvage Collection .. .. .	271
Refuse Storage Accommodation .. .. .	62
Sanitary Accommodation .. .. .	21
Smoke Abatement .. .. .	39
Street Cleansing .. .. .	132
Unsound Food .. .. .	41
Water Supplies .. .. .	39
Miscellaneous .. .. .	194

## APPENDIX 2

### (a) Notices

Notices served—Informal 174    Complied with 151  
 Notices served—Statutory 35    Complied with 35

(b)	Animals, Poultry, Swine, etc.—nuisances abated	..	..	4
	Basement areas constructed and drained	..	..	3
	Bath waste pipes renewed	..	..	1
	Ceilings underdrawn	..	..	1
	Cellars flooded—remedied	..	..	43
	Conversions—privies to pails	..	..	3
	Dampness remedied	..	..	82
	Dangerous structures removed	..	..	2
	Defective dustbins replaced	..	..	88
	Defective yard surfaces relaid	..	..	1
	Doors repaired	..	..	5
	Drains relaid, repaired or cleared	..	..	135
	Eaves gutters cleared	..	..	6
	Eaves gutters or rainwater pipes repaired	..	..	28
	Fireplaces, chimneys, etc., renewed or repaired	..	..	19
	Floors relaid or repaired	..	..	4
	Fire escapes provided	..	..	1
	Handrails repaired/renewed	..	..	2
	Hard surfaces redrained	..	..	1
	Houses repainted	..	..	3
	Insanitary sinks replaced	..	..	1
	Inspection chamber covers renewed	..	..	6
	Manure pits constructed and drained	..	..	1
	Offensive accumulations removed	..	..	4
	Pails to pail closets renewed	..	..	5
	Paths repaired	..	..	2
	Pollution of streams abated	..	..	2
	Roofs repaired	..	..	27
	Septic tanks and filters reconstructed	..	..	5
	Sink waste pipes renewed, repaired or cleared	..	..	4
	Skirting boards, repaired	..	..	2
	Soil pipes repaired, renewed	..	..	4
	Staircases repaired	..	..	2
	Ventilation improved	..	..	3
	W.C. cisterns repaired	..	..	2
	W.C.'s repaired	..	..	1
	W.C. Pedestals renewed	..	..	1
	Wall or ceiling plaster repaired	..	..	12
	Walls repaired	..	..	23
	Watercourses cleared	..	..	1
	Water service pipes repaired or renewed	..	..	2
	Water services—taps replaced	..	..	1
	Windows repaired, sash cords provided, etc.	..	..	20



### APPENDIX 3

#### FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1938

##### 1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power .. .. .	70	66	3	—
Factories without mechanical power .. .. .	53	56	4	—
Total ..	123	122	7	—

##### 2. Defects found.

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness .. .. .	4	4	—	—
Overcrowding .. .. .	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature .. .. .	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation .. .. .	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floor .. .. .	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:—				
Insufficient .. .. .	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective .. .. .	2	2	—	—
Not separate for sexes .. .. .	—	—	—	—
Other offences .. .. .	—	—	—	—
Total .. .. .	6	6	—	—

## APPENDIX 4

### HOUSING STATISTICS

1.	Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year.	
(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects. (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .. ..	236
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. ..	445
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ..	NIL
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. ..	NIL
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses needing further action:—	
	(a) Number considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..	65
	(b) Number (excluding those in sub-head (3) (a) above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	35
2.	Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices: Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their Officers .. .. .	33
3.	Action under statutory powers during the year:	
A.	Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 Housing Act, 1936.	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. .. .	NIL
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:	
	(a) By owners .. .. .	NIL
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .. ..	NIL
B.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. .. .	2
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
	(a) By owners .. .. .	2
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .. ..	NIL
C.	Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1)	Number of reports in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for habitation .. .. .	NIL
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. .. .	NIL
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. .. .	NIL
(4)	Number of written undertakings to close accepted ..	NIL
D.	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .. ..	2
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which written undertakings to close accepted ..	NIL
(3)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms the Closing Orders in respect of which were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit .. ..	NIL

4. Unhealthy Areas:

Housing Acts, Clearance. In progress.

5. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding:

(a)	(1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of 1954 ..	7
	(2)	Number of above cases of overcrowding relieved during 1955	3
(b)	(1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of 1955 ..	4
	(2)	Number of families dwelling therein .. ..	5
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein (Units) .. ..	32
(c)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .. .. .	NIL
(d)	(1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	3
	(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases (Units) ..	24









